The German Tribune

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EEC leaders face tough decisions

The fight against unemployment and terrorism are the two main priorities EEC heads of state said after their recent meeting in Copenhagen.

How can the citizens of the EEC be expected to react to such platitudes with anything more than the customary yawn?

In parliamentary democracies, where everything depends on voluntary agreements between parties and groups, it is customary to put decisions off for as long as possible. This dilatory process is known as "allowing decisions to mature," and it is to prevent over-hasty moves which would ruffle partners who had not yet made up their minds.

Some of the major decisions within the EEC are now near to being taken, which means that the EEC heads of government's resolutions could well have more than mere publicity value.

There are 6.5 million unemployed in the Community. This is doubly expensive because the unemployed have to be supported out of social security funds dwindling because of unemployment, an almost unbearable burden for the economies of the EEC states.

Another heavy load is the drop in value of the US dollar, which makes American products cheaper on world markets and reduces the competitiveness of EEC products. The day does not look far off when European products will be unsaleable on world markets and European heads of states will be doing no more than presiding over their respective bankruptcies.

The European heads are reluctant to play this role. It is not therefore too much to expect that by the beginning of the Bremen Conference in July decisions on a common strategy to combat unemployment, boost the economies, create new jobs and stabilise currencies will have been taken.

The heads of government will also have to take steps to ensure that the EEC's currencies do not in future catch cold every time the dollar sneezes.

It is essential that the EEC should support moves to replace the devalued dollar as the world's leading currency.

Its heads should not only consider the creation of a separate "legal zone" to combat terrorism more effectively, but should also set up an EEC currency area and thereby make themselves more independent of the USA.

The heads of state are considering this now. Indeed they have little choice.

Let no-one assume that all these decisions will have been taken as if by a miracle come July. Twenty-one months ago the heads of government solemnly declared their intention to cooperate more in the fight against terrorism. Nothing happened.

Perhaps the kidnappings and murders since then have speeded up the decision-making processes.

As for economic matters, the Copenhagen leaders have not solved all the *diabolical questions of detail. It would* be too much to expect them to do so.

How much growth do we need to reduce unemployment without causing inflation? How much aid should the EEC give to weaker member states such as Italy and Ireland?

International experts expect economic expansion to move steadily towards the target 4.5 per cent this year. Whether this can in fact be reached is another matter. Chancellor Schmidt rightly has his doubts.

There is no way, with a growth rate of just under 4.5 per cent a year, that the EEC can accommodate the two million people coming onto the labour market every year until 1982. This is why there will have to be structural reforms in industry, as announced at Copenhagen.

One final point is refreshingly clear compared with the highly complex economic problems above. The EEC will continue to pursue its present Middle East policies. The conflicts in the area represent a military and an economic threat to the community.

Its aim is a peace which is just to Israelis and Palestinians. *Hermann Bohle*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 10 April 1978)

EEC parliament gets direct poll next year

The first direct elections to the European Parliament will take place from 7-10 July 1979.

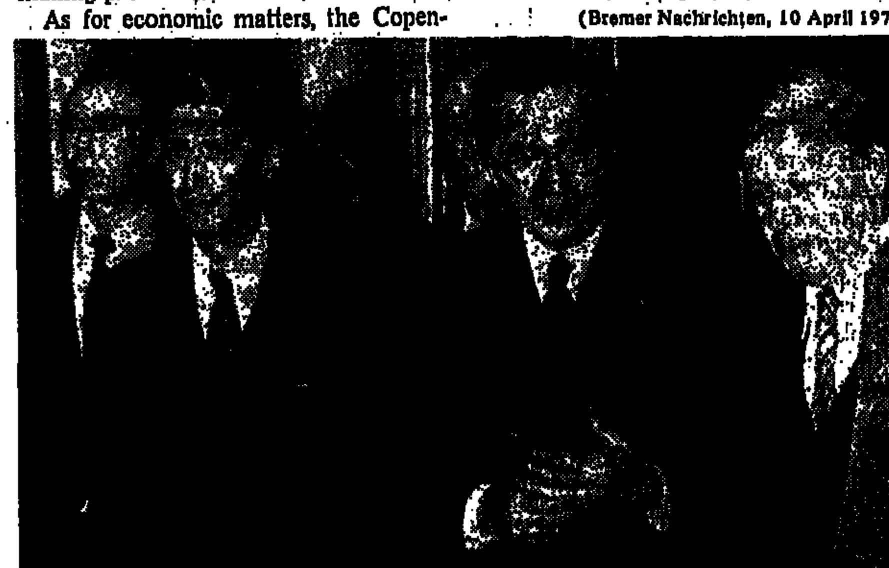
Agreement on the date was reached at the recent meeting of EEC heads of state in Copenhagen. The British, who blocked the agreement on elections in 1978, found the 1979 date acceptable.

Up to now, EEC deputies have been delegated to the European Parliament from their national parliaments.

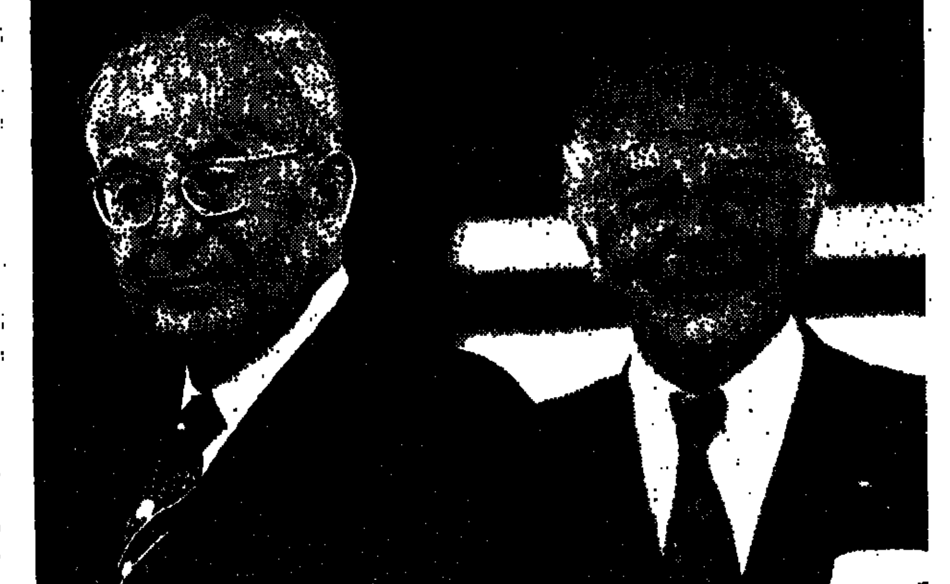
The election cannot take place on the same day in all countries because of different electoral practices. *dpa*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 8 April 1978)

IN THIS ISSUE



Five EEC heads of state in a thoughtful mood after the meeting of Community leaders in Copenhagen. They are (from left): Leo Tindemans of Belgium, A. van Agt of the Netherlands, Jack Lynch of Ireland (partly obscured), Giulio Andreotti of Italy and Helmut Schmidt of the Federal Republic of Germany. (Photo: dpa)



President Walter Scheel welcomes the President of Czechoslovakia, Gustav Husak, to Bonn. This is the first visit by a Czechoslovakian head of state to a Western country apart from a 1974 trip to Finland. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Husak visit is historic event says Prague

The visit to Bonn on 10 April of Czechoslovakia's President and General-Secretary of the Communist Party, Gustav Husak, is "an event of historic importance" said a high-ranking official in Prague's Foreign Ministry.

"We hope that Bonn is equally interested in making use of this visit to raise relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and Czechoslovakia to a higher plane, and that it will not be regarded as just another state visit," he said.

The second remark somewhat dampens the optimism in Prague immediately before the first visit to a Western country (apart from the 1974 visit to Finland) of a Czechoslovakian head of state.

It is also more realistic since there have been many difficulties recently in relations between the two neighbouring countries.

The very fact that the guest from Prague is the last party boss of the Warsaw Pact states (excluding the GDR) to visit the Federal Republic of Germany's capital is indicative of the difficulties in the normalisation process between the two countries.

Since the signing on 11 December 1973 of the German-Czechoslovakian Normalisation Treaty and the establishment of diplomatic relations in its wake, only the period to the end of 1975 was used fairly intensively to make up for lost time by mutual ministerial visits and other bilateral contacts.

Since then, ties have not progressed very well, prompting Prague a few months ago to register "a certain freezing of relations."

Prague's Foreign Ministry is somewhat more diplomatic on this issue these

Continued on page 3

■ **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Neutron bomb issue still producing fall-out for US Nato partners

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

When Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher planned his recent short visit to Washington the neutron bomb was not the burning issue it has subsequently become. But it was the main topic of his conversations with President Carter, Foreign Secretary Vance and Defence Secretary Brown.

They also discussed German-American cooperation in the attempt to solve the conflicts in Africa, the activities of the Soviet Union, relations with Moscow, the Middle East and the problems of the developing countries.

Herr Genscher said he was pleased with preparations for the coming economic summit. There was no repetition of groundless American criticism of German policies, nor any fruitless discussion of the continuing weakness of the dollar.

The new American legislation on the prliferation of nuclear technology means America wants her uranium customers to prevent uranium being used to manufacture atomic weapons.

The new law envisages the renegotiation of current cooperation contracts.

Many Europeans believe it could inhibit economic cooperation, hence the importance of an exchange between Genscher and the American leadership on this issue.

Herr Genscher expects the European Community to express its willingness to ~~discuss this matter, despite French hesitation~~. The Americans say the purpose of the law is the same as the aims of the present two-year joint investigation into the uses of nuclear fuel.

The two-year negotiation period and the attitude of Washington will ensure that there are no supply difficulties. Herr Genscher said he was satisfied with the American position on this point.

He had agreed with his American partners not to comment on the neutron bomb issue. This seems to indicate that the President's decision not to order its production is not as firm as it appeared to be when Deputy Secretary of State Christopher visited Bonn recently. Vance said no decision had been taken. The fact that further consultations are expected within NATO also indicates this.

Herr Genscher's White House talks can scarcely have been ineffective. The American Congress is also critical of the decision not to go ahead with neutron weapon production. Vance, Brown and security adviser Brzezinski had previously argued for producing the neutron bomb or keeping this option open, but they seem to have had little success.

Since last summer Carter has several times spoken out in favour of the neutron bomb (which penetrates enemy tanks and causes considerably less damage than conventional atomic weapons). They argued that the weapon's advantage was that it neutralised enemy tank superiority.

Carter asked Congress to agree to the funds for production and it complied. The State Department and the Pentagon conducted long negotiation with European defence experts on the installation of the weapon on European sites.

The story currently being put about that Carter, advised by Hamilton Jordan and UN ambassador Andrew Young, suddenly discovered that neutron weapon production was not compatible with his goal of nuclear disarmament is not particularly convincing.

His change of mind more probably reflects the disappointment of American negotiators at the European response. The whole process is a sign of weakness in the American leadership which is felt no less in Washington than in Bonn or Brussels.

The German formula (that the decision whether to produce the bomb is an American one and that where it should be sited is a Nato decision) is scrupulously correct. But it does not take into account that both the US and the Federal Republic of Germany have important roles to play in Nato.

Carter has said that he does not want to have the bomb installed in Europe without European and, in particular, German permission and he does not want to give the signal for production until he has this permission.

Some Europeans see this is a sign that the US is not playing a leadership role within Nato. On the other hand, for many years the Europeans complained that there was not adequate division of responsibility within Europe.

The fact that the UN special conference on disarmament is taking place this month added weight to UN ambassador Young's advice that the weapon the clear support of America's European should not be produced without the clear support of America's European allies.

European opposition and hesistancy on the neutron bomb have led to the solution (or perhaps merely the excuse) that the bomb could be used in negotiations to force the Soviet Union to make concessions.

Soviet propaganda and a letter of protest from Brezhnev seemed to encourage this hope, but not even the designers of the bomb can guess what part it would play in negotiations with the Russians about their SS 20 weapons.

The proposal Carter has now rejected was that he should go ahead with production and await the results of negotiations without a European decision on its installation.

American and European backers of this proposal regarded it as the best way of overcoming objections to production. They expected Carter to agree.

The choice of the present tortuous course shows that no-one has a monopoly on hesitancy. It looks as though the prospects for a clear and satisfactory decision are now negligible.

A definite decision against a highly effective anti-tank weapon would not be satisfactory. And a decision to leave production open could hardly be described as clear.

Hans B. Meyer

(Der Tagesspiegel, 6 April 1978)

Carter's atomic energy law another challenge for Bonn

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG

Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit to Washington came when German-American relations are facing a severe test.

President Carter's new atomic energy law is yet another challenge to Bonn and the other EEC states, following the fall in the dollar, the Carter government's insistence that Bonn should be the engine of world economic revival, the dispute over the neutron bomb, complication of East-West relations by Carter's insistence on a human rights policy, and the fierce attacks on German nuclear exports.

The nuclear non-proliferation law of March 10 forces the American executive to insert stricter non-proliferation clauses into current uranium supply contracts, including that with the Euratom authority in Brussels.

The Act says the countries affected must declare their willingness to engage in talks on the renegotiation of these contracts by April 10 1978, 30 days after the law was passed.

Congress has set a two-year deadline for the renegotiation of the nuclear cooperation agreements by which time the countries involved must have accepted the tighter non-proliferation clauses.

The Federal Republic of Germany imports from the U.S. about a third of its slightly enriched uranium for the rods of traditional light water reactors and all of its highly enriched uranium for its atomic research plants in Karlsruhe and Julich.

It would risk a total American embargo on uranium imports if the EEC countries failed to declare their willingness to negotiate, something the French have vetoed.

The law's purpose is that in future countries who import US uranium should consult the US before reprocessing their uranium. This condition is not in current Euratom contracts, some of which run until 1995.

If Brussels does not agree to negotiate, the result would be an immediate embargo on uranium supplies according to articles 127 and 128 of the new law. This would be the most serious interruption of supplies since political and administrative delays in 1975.

Although this country and her EEC partners were well informed about the American debate on non-proliferation and plutonium, the sudden ratification of the law has taken them aback.

It appears that the law will not affect other current agreements or atomic energy plants, although even this is not certain. The passage in the act is open to interpretation.

This means the controversial German-Brazilian agreement would not be affected. Furthermore, the transfer of US nuclear material within the EEC itself would not be subject to US controls.

Washington has adopted a conciliatory tone, referring to the American commitment to supply uranium for such projects as the uranium bank, the rising dangers of proliferation in the world and the agreement that no measures would be taken in anticipation of the results of the INFCE.

But it is quite clear that President Carter and his team of non-proliferators are going to be as tough as US Finance Secretary Blumenthal in his non-defence of the dollar.

The US administration has said that supplies to countries refusing to comply with its terms will be cut off. President Carter restated his hard line on fast-breeder reactors and reprocessing during his recent visit to Brazil.

In other words, despite the apparently non-retrospective nature of the anti-proliferation law, there is still a question mark over the German-Brazilian nuclear deal.

Paradoxically, this potential cause of disagreement comes when White House and Chancellor's Office officials are putting it about that the Americans and Germans are "being nice to each other again." Recent moves such as the Swap agreement of March 13 and the President's intervention message of January 4 would seem to confirm this assurance.

Despite the bad press they have been getting, both sides have recently shown willingness to cooperate.

The White House, in the person of no less authoritative a figure than Foreign Secretary Vance, has denied that there is a serious split between Washington and Bonn.

The Americans were highly pleased with Chancellor Schmidt's recent assurance that "the German American consensus is unshakeable" and took this as a sign of Schmidt's determination to ensure an improvement in relations.

It is not yet clear whether the new Washington atomic ultimatum is going to destroy the detente in US-German relations.

Klaus Engelen

(Handelsblatt, 5 April 1978)

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■ **HOME AFFAIRS**

GDR's 'prisoners for sale' dealings now out in open

A touchy subject can now be spoken about openly and without fear of jeopardising the deal: the Federal Republic of Germany buys the freedom of 1,500 political prisoners in the GDR for cash every year.

This trade, which began unheralded on a small scale in 1963, expanded dramatically in 1971-72, before the Basic Treaty was signed. At that time the subject remained unmentioned.

A total of 14,000 GDR prisoners have had their freedom bought by Bonn since 1964. The price was DM1,000 million, inclusing payments for family reunification which the GDR did not provide free of charge, though 70 per cent cheaper.

For 15 years this trade in prisoners was one of the most delicate subjects in German-German relations and taboo for the media.

The West was concerned that the GDR would otherwise suspend the trade so as not to harm its international image.

It is now obvious that, at least since 1976, this is no longer so.

Two years ago, a French TV correspondent in Bonn, Michel Meyer, wrote a book called "Freedom Purchase — Trade in People in Germany."

The book, published in France in 1977 and now available in German, gives details of the deal.

The most interesting part is the appendix, a long interview in which M. Meyer spoke to the attorneys, Stange (West) and Vogel (East), who handled the transactions between the two German states.

Vogel, a representative of the GDR Government with good contacts with SED boss Honecker, was absolutely uninhibited when talking about the deals. He even offered the "political and Marxist attitude of the GDR" as justification.

In the socialist view, he said, "a crime must be assessed by the damage done to the state."

"The fundamental view that such crimes can be made good materially is the true and only basis for this barter. The GDR therefore arrived at the political decision to turn these prisoners over to the West."

This even represented a factor in detente between East and West. "Every spy, every escapee and every dissident we turn over is one problem and one cause of friction less between the two German states. This can be one method of normalising relations."

Herr Vogel said, however, that West German propaganda should not use this against the GDR, whose goodwill concerning the continuation of the transactions cannot be doubted.

All this was said openly in 1976. Vogel thus approved of the book as a whole.

Bonn, too, is now airing the issue, though somewhat shamefacedly.

Intra-German Relations Minister Egon Franke, SPD, speaking before the Committee Indivisible Germany recently, days, saying that relations are not at gave figures for transactions.

The coalition government in Bonn has leaked details and the press has recently been carrying regular reports on the deals.

Judging by the headlines, they would almost fit into the economic affairs columns. They are handled without any moral overtones.

And yet, the whole thing is a trade in human beings in which no other East Bloc country engages in such a way. The French communist said openly months ago that such transactions were an insult to socialism.

The way the deals are handled must be a moral burden to the West. But they must continue for the sake of the prisoners.

Renate Marbach

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 5 April 1978)

Tricky questions face new Lomé Convention drafters

Preliminary work on a second Lomé Convention to replace the first between the EEC and 50 African, Caribbean and Pacific states is in progress.

Apart from a number of other difficult issues, the new agreement also includes a system for stabilising commodity export yields (Stabex System) which has been under serious attack and which will have to be ironed out in the new convention.

One of the most delicate points is the lack of control over the use of offset payments to member nations.

Article 20 of the convention says tersely: "The beneficiary country is to decide over the use of the funds."

At present the beneficiary need only report to the EEC Commission what it did with the funds.

The danger of misuse is aggravated by the fact that there is either no or a very limited repayment obligation.

Brussels should have taken a firmer stand in that respect when concluding the first Lomé Convention.

In the second convention it should be stipulated — especially in the interests of responsible member nations — that offset payments can only be used for development purposes (such as diversifying obsolete branches of production and other commodity policy measures).

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 April 1978)

EEC decisions

Continued from page 1

standstill but that existing possibilities had not been fully used.

Economic relations with highly industrialised Czechoslovakia have been quite satisfactory. Trade in 1976 for the first time exceeded DM3,000.

Despite a slight drop in 1977, trade figures still reached DM3,263 million, reducing Prague's deficit from DM751 million in 1976 to DM657 million.

The Federal Republic is thus Czechoslovakia's most important Western trading partner without that country having made much use of credit facilities, nor intending to do so in the future.

The problem of family reunification has been a frequent bugbear in relations.

Pointing to the 60s, when some 80,000 ethnic Germans were repatriated, Prague's Foreign Ministry considers "this problem solved to all intents and purposes."

The German authorities concur despite the relatively low figure of repatriates in the past few years.

While Prague authorities give the figure of repatriated Germans since the signing of the Treaty as 3,172, German statistics show only 2,365, with a slightly rising trend since 1976.

A number of envisaged treaties have remained unsigned for years due to differing views on the inclusion of West Berlin.

Harry Schleicher

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 5 April 1978)

Russell Tribunal: little reaction

Little interest has been shown in the Russell Tribunal and this manoeuvre to pillory this country has been rejected almost unanimously here and, more importantly, abroad, showing that there are limits to political defamation.

We need not waste more words about the incompetence of the self-appointed group of judges or the farce of the investigation. Those who, in a world where torture is rampant in military dictatorships and authoritarian regimes, can talk of violations of human rights in this country are effectively passing judgment on themselves.

The tribunal based its general claim that human rights were violated in this country on 12 specially prepared cases of *Berufsverbote*.

The practice of *Berufsverbote*, it said, was a serious violation of human rights, such a grotesque exaggeration that it can only be described as slanderous.

The necessary examination of the loyalty to the consitution of candidates for the public service has certainly posed serious problems. The discrepancies in the way this decree is applied from one Land to the next is vexatious.

But no candidate is completely helpless. He can take his case to the courts and fight the issue out there. There is no need for outside intervention.

Ludwig Hirte.

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 5 April 1978)

Minister quits over thesis

Lower Saxony's Justice Minister Hans Puvogel resigned after less than two years in office.

The move was prompted by his 1936 doctoral thesis (he was 25), in which he embraced Nazi ideology, being dug up by the media and publicised.

The SPD Opposition said it was untenable for such a man to be in charge of public prosecutors and judges.

Although Puvogel, who has been a member of the State Assembly since 1963, felt there was no legal or moral onus on him to resign, he took the step to avoid hampering the CDU in its campaign for the 4 June state elections.

Prime Minister Albrecht accepted the resignation following a discussion when Puvogel visited him at a vacation resort.

Albrecht himself will take on Puvogel's portfolio until the end of the current legislative period.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 31 March 1978)

Sino-EEC deal not playing power politics

The Sino-European trade agreement is no justification for the Soviet Union to contend that Western Europe has been yoked by Peking to the anti-Soviet cart.

In fact, there would be no reason for that at all if Moscow were at last to reduce its forces in Europe, demonstrating peaceful intentions rather than the opposite through its arms buildup.

But quite apart from this East-West debate between the deaf, it is absurd to accuse the EEC of having joined forces with China against Soviet "social imperialism."

Against the Soviet Union the West European states derive all their political and military power and security from the United States.

It is a gross exaggeration of the power of the EEC nations to allege that they are engaging in major power politics against Moscow with China.

Just as the Community nations in their Middle East policy never go any further than Washington permits, so their relations with Moscow are governed.

The remark of a Soviet diplomat that the Kremlin is happy in the knowledge that Washington has a firm grip on Western Europe is understandable.

The idea that Europe could join forces with China against the Soviets can only come from a political pundit.

Peking is far away. And the late Premier Chou En-lai told a Yugoslav journalist years ago, when asked how far China would go in lending a hand against Moscow, that "Distant waters extinguish no fires."

The Community's relations with China have the advantage that geographical distance excludes direct conflicts. The same applies to a common stand politically: if this were to lead to tension between Western Europe and Moscow, only the Americans could lend direct help.

If China makes major imports from Europa dependent upon a joint course against the Soviet Union, the new trade agreement will be of little benefit to Europe. The United States would refuse to be drawn into European conflicts because the EEC nations were determined to get a slice of the lucrative China business.

Fortunately, China, too, has its economic interests.

China will give kind consideration to all imports from the Community says the trade agreement.

Since China's foreign trade is a state monopoly, this is of major importance in practical terms.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 4 April 1978)

Barzel happy out of chair

Former CDU chairman Rainer Barzel, says he has no ambition to hold this post again.

Herr Barzel, now chairman of the Bundestag economic affairs committee, added: "But I consider myself the nation's reservist."

Asked who the Opposition economic affairs spokesman was in the Bundestag, he said: "There is none. We have several colleagues who work in this field."

The CDU Chairman Helmut Kohl intended to sort things out in time — and not only in the economic sector.

Rainer Barzel said things would have to become clearer before the next election since the voter asked himself, "who, what and how?"

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 March 1978)

■ POLITICS

New political home offer to discontented

People at odds with the state and the political parties are now to be offered a new political home in the form of the *Deutsche Fortschritts-Bewegung*, DFB (German Progress Movement), recently established in West Berlin.

The new movement, under the chairmanship of Horst Hans-Joachim Schütz, 51, has declared war on "the politicians' megalomania" and red tape.

"It's high time the citizen had a say," says party leader Schütz.

Horst Hans-Joachim Schütz is no newcomer to party midwifery. In 1975 he organised the election campaign in Berlin of the rightist conservative *Bund Freies Deutschland*, BFD (Free Germany Union), which captured a remarkable 3.4 per cent of the votes in its first election.

Then too, Herr Schütz rallied dissatisfied citizens, though on a different platform.



Host Hans-Joachim Schütz
(Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

While the BFD aimed at reviving the reunification idea, Schütz' new party intends to serve as a home for those disgruntled with the state and the established parties.

Initially, he had no intention of forming a party. In the spring of 1977, when he founded a "political citizens' initiative", his aim was to create an "anti-parties movement." Then he read in the economic affairs magazine *Capital* about polls conducted by the political scientist Professor Rudolf Wildenmann on the citizen's disgruntlement with the established parties.

The survey was prompted by the success of the Danish tax rebel Mogens Glistrup, and the public was asked if it would vote for such a party in the Federal Republic of Germany. The outcome surprised even Wildenmann: 25 per cent said yes.

A personal meeting with Glistrup encouraged Schütz to form an "anti-party" in West Berlin last December.

His platform has some similarity with that of the Danish tax rebel. Schütz, too, wants to abolish income tax — at least for those earning less than DM12,000 per year.

In his view, the state should also forgo revenue from trading tax. In addition, *Herr Schütz calls for* drastic reductions of the administrative apparatus and red tape.

He has meanwhile established branch offices in Lower Saxony and in Baden-Württemberg, to be followed shortly by branches in Hesse, Hamburg and Northrhine-Westphalia.

Only when these branches are operating does he intend to campaign on the federal plane without participating in State Assembly elections outside Berlin.

The first trial is to be in March 1979 when Berlin goes to the polls. For this he has worked out a special Berlin programme. In the final phase of campaigning, Glistrup is to lend a hand.

The new party boss has already rallied support from legal and tax experts.

He has decided to forgo the services of a tax expert in filing his own returns, *saying: "I fill in the forms to the best of* my ability and leave it to the Internal *Revenue Department to fill in the gaps.* The state's function is, after all, to serve the citizen and not vice versa."

Should he ever make it into the Bundestag, Horst Hans-Joachim Schütz intends to fight to reduce bureaucracy by half.

He maintains that he has no financial backers, saying: "I would like to remain independent."

The BFD and the Action Group Fourth Party, he contends, foundered when the money tap was turned off.

At present, the *Deutsche Fortschritts-Bewegung* is financially self-sufficient, depending only on membership dues.

Publicity work is done on the snowball principle, with those who have a printed party programme being asked to pass it on.

Horst Hans-Joachim Schütz has chosen as his party emblem the letter "Z" for the German word *Zukunft* (future).

Willi Kinnigkeit

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 March 1978)

Antje Huber: politician with no time to mourn lost utopias

Since the resignation of Development Aid Minister Marie Schlei a few months ago, Antje Huber, 53, has been the only woman in the Bonn Cabinet. It says something that this is the first thing that comes to mind when her name is mentioned.

Frau Huber has been Minister for Youth, Family and Health for more than a year.

Her chances of making major policy are considered *minimal* and of gaining political stature nil.

Antje Huber herself was not exactly happy when offered the post. But she is not the type to reject such a task. Duty and discipline are part of her makeup.

Nothing fell into her lap during her career, and any success was achieved by stamina and perseverence.

Born in Pommerania as the daughter of an elementary school teacher, she grew up in Berlin, which is still evident in her offhand way and her quick wit.

During the early post-war months, she was what became known as a "rubble woman", one of hundreds of thousands who cleared away the debris of war.

She then went to Essen where she married a fellow journalist. They had a son who died in a traffic accident at the age of seven.

Having worked as a sports journalist, she decided to change her profession and attended the Social Studies Academy of Dortmund, majoring in economics, *business administration*, sociology and labour law.

She stayed there as a teacher for seven years.



Antje Huber
(Photos: Sven Simon)

Antje Huber joined the SPD in 1948 and started a political career in which she became a city councillor of Essen and was elected a Bundestag member in 1969.

In parliament, she developed into an expert on finance and fiscal affairs, eventually becoming deputy chairman of the Bundestag finance committee.

Her pronounced feeling for what is feasible in financial terms dates back to that era.

Her ability to fit plans into the existing financial framework earned her an inconspicuous, though unchallenged

Continued on page 5

Weekly speculation about the replacement of Günter Gaus, Bonn's representative in East Berlin, has become something of a duty for the press.

Press still eyes Bonn's man in East Berlin

The news magazine *Der Spiegel*, for instance, seems to operate on the maxim that if a rumour is kept simmering long enough corresponding facts will emerge of their own accord.

The Bonn government is unlikely to be happy that its permanent representative in the GDR has been a press talking point for more than a year.

Diplomats said to be awaiting recall are not the most suitable negotiators.

Willy Brandt's man Günter Gaus ("I enjoy serving Willy Brandt"), who gave up his DM500,000 job as editor-in-chief of *Spiegel* to become state secretary at the Chancellery and, since 1974, Bonn's representative in East Berlin at a very much lower salary, considers himself *shunted off politically.*

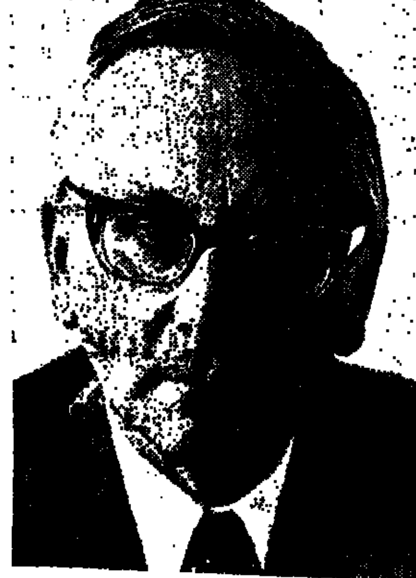
His isolation became particularly obvious at the beginning of this year when State Minister Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski met trop GDR officials to pull the bogged-down *Deutschlandpolitik* out of the mire while Gaus was left in the cold.

Officially, the Chancellery rejects all speculation that *Deutschlandpolitik* is bypassing Günter Gaus.

Says Wischnewski: "Herr Gaus is more deeply involved in decision-making processes than any normal ambassador."

He also says that there are no differences of opinion no reason to say anything but that he "has done a splendid job."

No such praise of Gaus has been heard from Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who saw his mistrust of Gaus confirmed



Günter Gaus

when the latter — out of fear that the dialogue between the two German states might break down — said in an interview a year ago that the citizenship issue and the future character of the German-German border should be reconsidered.

Not having discussed the interview beforehand with his *government*, Herr Gaus was clobbered from all sides.

Gaus' frustration is unlikely to have diminished. Following Wischnewski's visit to the GDR, he posed the "question of confidence" to Bonn.

It seems that he was induced to stay at his post with the argument that he would be replaced anyway in the autumn as a matter of diplomatic routine.

A denial by the Chancellery of his resignation contains a qualifying word: "There is no intention whatsoever to replace Herr Gaus at present." There was a further rider that this does not exclude rethinking — perhaps in the autumn. Four years, the statement says, was the usual tour of duty in East Bloc countries.

The Chancellery's plans might coincide *with those* of the *GDR Foreign* Ministry. That country's representative in Bonn, Michael Kohl, might be replaced by Professor Häber, head of the Department "West" in the SED Central Committee.

Wischnewski is appreciative of Häber's matter-of-factness, which he experienced when negotiating with him during his latest visit to East Berlin.

It is still unknown who Bonn will appoint to the East Berlin post.

Speculation revolves around State Secretary Carl Werner Sanne of the Development Aid Ministry and Bonn's West Berlin representative Dietrich Spangenberg.

Der Spiegel having seen to it, it can be assumed that it will not be Horst Grabert, once Brandt's head of the Chancellery and today ambassador in Vienna.

When his name was mentioned in connection with the Berlin post, say Bonn circles, "the poor fellow got the fright of his life." *Hans Peter Schütz*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 April 1978)

■ INDUSTRY

Metal wage agreement sets guide

The wage agreement between North Württemberg-North Baden IG Metall leader Franz Steinkühler and employers' association spokesman Heinz Dürr will certainly set the trend for wage agreements in other regions of the metal industry.

Eugen Loderer, leader of the national metal workers' union (IG Metall), and Wolfram Thiele, president of the employers association (Gesamtmetall) have recommended that their organisations regard this agreement as a guideline for percentage wage increases.

Steinkühler's main achievement was the earnings guarantee. This can now only be introduced in Hessen and in two other Württemberg districts. In the other districts the local unions did not include earnings guarantees in their demands.

Was a two-and-a-half week dispute with strikes and lockouts necessary to achieve a five per cent wage increase in the metal-working industry? The answer must be yes.

If strikes and lockouts had not taken place, wage agreements would have been higher and the damage to the whole economy greater.

In the last few weeks IG Metall has negotiated separate wage agreements with a number of firms. The increases *ranged from 6.1 to 6.5 per cent*. The five per cent agreement (over the whole year it comes to less than five per cent) would not have been reached if the employers had not been adamant.

It must also be said that the employers were partly to blame for the dispute. Their pre-negotiation tactics were utterly foolish. There is no reason why the employers should be allowed to get away with saying that they are prepared to offer 3,5 and no more. The unions saw this as a provocation and set out to prove that they could get more than this amount.

The agreement on earnings guarantees is quite new. Events in one South-West German company underlined its importance in Franz Steinkühler's eyes.



Grip of steel: North Württemberg-North Baden metal workers' union leader Franz Steinkühler and employers' association chairman Heinz Dürr set the seal on the agreement ending a lengthy wage dispute. (Photo: dpa)

When new machines were introduced, 2000 workers were sacked and 119 transferred to lower wage groups.

The company bosses defence was that it was difficult to introduce new technology *in an economic recession. If technological progress* is speeded up in times of recession, then sackings and wage cuts are inevitable.

After this move, there were hundreds of phone calls to the union's central offices in Stuttgart. It was the last straw for the union and they included earnings guarantees in their demands.

These earnings guarantees cost the employers next to nothing. In the extreme case, they can simply sack a man if the earnings guarantees mean he is costing them too much. This will not usually occur because most of the men affected are skilled workers.

This "soft landing" for workers whose jobs are destroyed by technological progress is now in black and white in the agreement. It sets a trend for the future but it is a development the employers can live with.

Whether this aspect of the agreement *will help the fight against unemployment* is another matter. The council of economic experts had recommended wage agreements of 3,5 per cent at most.

The unions have not thought of the unemployed when presenting their demands. The abolition of the lowest wage group will make companies reluctant to take on more workers.

We probably will not know for a few years whether companies can operate the earnings guarantee agreement and maintain their flexibility. It was thanks to this flexibility that they overcome many difficulties in the past.

If it should turn out that the guar*antees affect companies' ability to adapt* to market conditions, then the question of whether these protective measures belong in wage agreements at all will have to be reviewed.

If, as some maintain, rationalisatior destroys more jobs than it creates, then perhaps the victims of technological progress should be financed out of social security funds rather than from the coffers of individual firms. *Rudolf Herlt*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 4 April 1978)

Chemical union's decision time

Wage negotiations in the chemical industry, the second largest in the country, began this year before the metal *industry* had worked out its wage agreement and provided a guide for other industries.

The employers in the chemical industry wanted central negotiations with a small group of top union officials. The union, IG Chemie, preferred regional wage and salary negotiations. At discussions between their leaders in Aachen recently, the scene was set for central negotiations.

The IG Chemie gave notice on last year's central agreement at the beginning of this year. A new agreement would then be negotiated centrally.

The union is mainly interested in job guarantees, which cannot be reached without a reduction in working time, as the employers acknowledge. In preliminary talks they have indicated willingness to discuss longer holidays.

The union also knows that agreement on reduced working hours only guarantees jobs if the skrinking overall volume of work is distributed among at least the same number of workers as before. In an industry which works around the clock this can be done by reducing the length of shifts and introducing — four shifts instead of the present three.

The IG Chemie executive has already intimated to the employers that it is ready to make concessions on wage demands. It has called on its districts not to put in demands for more than seven per cent.

This means IG Chemie's wage demands were oner per cent below those of IG Metall and the public service unions.

However, the union will only agree to central negotiations if the employers agree not to reduce jobs in the industry even though technological progress would make this possible.

Gertraut Witt

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 31 March 1978)

Continued from page 4

post in the Cabinet. Controversy and excessive financial demands for her ministry would be out of character.

The argument "this cannot be done financially" has never failed to convince her. But this also led to the quiet scrapping of many projects, among them the experiment called "Day Mothers."

Instead of costly experiments, Antje Huber has engaged in tedious information work through brochures. Instead of major reform projects she has quietly helped other ministries in their tasks.

Critics berate her for this, lamenting promising reform plans from the previous legialative period which failed to materialise, such as they Day Mothers project, the destiny of which remains uncertain.

As she herself puts it, what matters for Antje Huber is above all to do a good day's work. This means forgoing the utopian without much regret and getting on with the feasible without fanfare. *Ada Brandes*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 26 March 1978)

Metal workers get their guarantees

After two-and-a-half months of negotiations and a two-and-a-half week wage dispute agreement has finally been reached in the North Württemberg-North Baden metal industry.

The IG Metall (The metal working union) had gone into the negotiations demanding an eight per cent wage increase, a rise in pay rates in the wage categories and an income guarantee for workers affected by rationalisation.

The fight for income guarantees has been just as important as the demand for higher wages. The agreement reached will benefit both office and shop floor workers. The employers have dropped their demand that income guarantees should only be given to workers affected by "technological change."

In future, wage-earners will only go down two wage scales and salary earners one wage scale. Employers will have to pay the difference between the old and the new scale for 18 months.

The works council must be told of all salary and wage reductions every quarter. If the the works council is not informed, the reductions cannot take place.

The employers have committed themselves "as far as possible" to offer workers whose jobs are affected or lost through rationalisation equivalent work. They also commit themselves, if this is not possible, to "continue to employ workers and to retrain them for other jobs within the company suited to their capacities."

During this retraining period, which usually lasts six but can last up to 12 months, the firm will continue to pay the worker's salary or wage. Wage and salary reductions when workers are transferred to lower groups will only be allowed if transfer to equivalent work or retraining is impossible.

The fact that the works council will have to be told of wage and salary averages within the firm is highly significant. It means the council can intervene if there is a marked drop in the overall wage and salary level in the firm.

In a joint press conference with metal industry employers' leader Thiele, Eugen Loderer, chairman of IG Metall, was cautious on whether the agreement would set a trend for forthcoming negotiations in other metal districts. "Here we have four districts negotiating together. Perhaps this could be reorganised and made more flexible. On the other hand, you should not conclude that Northrhine-Westphalia North could not carry out a strike."

Loderer was evasive on whether Northrhine-Westphalia would be called upon to prove its ability to strike this year: "That will be decided when the time is right."

Loderer underlined his solidarity with Stuttgart leader Franz Steinkühler and rejected speculation that the metal union central office had only reluctantly decided to back Steinkühler's demands.

The income guarantee was a demand formulated by the union head office and not only by the Stuttgart branch.

He added that the Hesse, Rheinland Palatinate and Saarland wage negotiating districts had made similar demands but could not go on strike to force them through.

North-Rhine-Westphalie had not introduced income guarantees into its demands because its wage system was not comparable with Baden's. Income guarantees were high on the union executive's list of priorities.

Herr Loderer said the metal union had not, like the print union, been taken by surprise by the introduction of new technology. It had been discussing measures, *to protect workers against the effects* of rationalisation since the 1960s.

Renate Faerber

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 April 1978)

■ ECONOMY

Bundesbank steers tricky course to find safe harbour for economy

DIE ZEIT

The Bundesbank has pumped some DM15,000 million into the German economy since last October to support the dollar, and without this the dollar would have slumped so badly that German exporters would have become apprehensive.

But whenever the Bundesbank or the US Federal Reserve Bank support the dollar with the help of deutschmarks, money circulation in the Federal Republic of Germany becomes so bloated as to cause concern about inflation. The monetary policy-maker's realm lies between Scylla and Charybdis.

Bundesbank President Otmar Emminger sees his task in a pragmatic light: "Even if the influx of foreign money initially inflates the liquidity of the banks and (somewhat less) the money volume, this does not mean that we have to accept this development fatalistically. We have already neutralised part of the excess liquidity and can continue to do so without much trouble."

Savings bank President Helmut Geiger fully understands that the Bundesbank is trying to stem upward revaluation pressure on the deutschmark detrimental to our economy.

"Developments on foreign exchange markets," Herr Geiger said recently, "have confirmed our scepticism as to whether a relatively small currency like the deutschmark is actually in a position to correct parity imbalances resulting from the US dollar — *in the long run*, that is."

The savers' advocate views the bloated world-wide liquidity as producing new inflationary impulses. Even with the poor business of today, he sees no reason for concern in the fact that the Bundesbank failed to achieve its money supply target.

What does worry him is the consequences of the dollar support. The present excessive liquidity will have to be skimmed off at some point and this means interest rates would go up.

This is why Helmut Geiger and his association oppose a further reduction of interest rates, "since they would not promote stability but instability on capital markets."

Further reductions of interest can only be imposed on savers if price stability improves markedly. This is not beyond reach. Herr Emminger stressed publicly only a few weeks ago that the chances of bringing the inflation rate down to two per cent are good.

At present we still have a three before the decimal point. If we subtract this inflation rate from the nominal interest on government bonds (5.5 per cent) we arrive at an interest rate in real terms of 2.5 per cent.

If *inflation falls to two per cent*, interest rates on bonds would drop to five per cent.

"Such a rate would be quite sensible," says Bundesbank Vice-President Karl-Otto Pöhl. This interest rate would be in keeping with the exchange rate: high interest rates in the deficit country, USA, and low rates in the surplus country, Germany.

It also would be in keeping with economic exigencies because low interest rates are at least one component of good growth conditions.

Herr Geiger would not like to see interest rates drop still further — especially for savings deposits with notice periods of two years or more.

His objective, he feels, could best be achieved if the Bundesbank and the Federal Reserve Bank (where deutschmarks are used for that purpose) were to discontinue their support of the dollar altogether, or if the Bundesbank were to skim off the tide of money brought on by intervention — not through raising minimum reserves but by selling securities to the banks.

Higher minimum reserves (bank funds temporarily withdrawn from circulation) have the effect of signalling an about-face in monetary policy and are anything but helpful now.

The same objective could be achieved in a less spectacular manner by selling securities with the proceeds frozen at the Bundesbank. This open market policy is more gentle in its effects due to the possibility of careful dosage.

Helmut Geiger does not, however, recommend a radical discontinuation of dollar intervention. Only the Rheinland-Westphalian Institute for Economic Research in Essen has come forward with such a stability-oriented recommendation.

It feels the dollar exchange rate should be left to market forces even if this means a further slump.

But the Bundesbank is not prepared to go that far. According to Herr Pöhl, this could lead to an impredictable dollar exchange rate that could have a dramatic effect on the German economy.

To postpone the moment when such a dramatically low dollar exchange rate is reached, the Bundesbank is buying dollars in spurts, accepting excessive liquidity of the banks and thus latent pressure on interest rates.

The Bundesbank does not want to *stop its support of the dollar*. (Emminger: "It is in our own interest to do all we can to improve the dollar situation.")

In supporting the dollar, the bank tries to ensure that "we do not forfeit or endanger our hard-won stability"; in other words, it sets its own limits for interventions.

But it cannot impose on our economy such restrictive strong-arm measures as increases of minimum reserves or massive sales of securities to neutralise the money that has flowed into the country. They would be out of keeping with the domestic and foreign trade situation.

In the medium-term this is certainly the right policy. In the monetary sector, it is therapy for the disturbances that have for so long kept our economy in the doldrums.

These disturbances centre on the reticence of business to invest in new plant and equipment, the motor that determines the speed of overall economic *growth*.

The problem is stubborn and cannot be overcome in the short run. For one thing, sales risks have increased abroad due to unpredictable exchange rates, increasing direct and indirect interference in free trade and bleak prospects for European integration. At home risks are due to changed consumer attitudes (they are saving more) and a shift of public demand at the expense of investments.

For another, costs, especially labour have risen more than productivity and prices during the past decade, which means profits have diminished.

Business has also been burdened with social security (such as protection of workers from dismissal and automation and continued salary payments in case of illness) which should actually be borne out of tax revenues.

Finally, business has become insecure due to constant disputes and discussions by the media and political parties about the future of our economic and social order.

The actual effect of the "system changers" on our economy might be small. But in assessing the future facts are less important than the evaluation of prospects by those concerned.

The picture is rounded off by the obstacles encountered in building new power stations and roads — obstacles arising out of moral or legal objections.

All these ponderable and imponderable forces explain the pessimistic mood of business.

As long as they continue, low interest rates will do little to alleviate the situation.

In the wake of the fight against inflation during the past few year interest rates dropped by several per cent. But business did not avail itself of the additional financing.

For this reason Helmut Geiger is right when he opposes interest rate reductions.

The Bundesbank will be steering the *right course if until the problems have* been overcome it were to see that business is not confronted with rising interest rates because interest on capital is the price for investments.

This is the Bundesbank's contribution towards overcoming the troubles. It cannot do more.

Rudolf Herlt

(Die Zeit, 31 March 1978)

View from above: Emminger on dollar and the mark

Otmar Emminger, president of the Bundesbank, discusses the bank's policy of supporting the dollar on foreign exchange markets.

More and more concern has been voiced lately over the Bundesbank's interventions on foreign exchange markets.

Some critics allege that the dollar purchases of the past few months were useless because the attempt to maintain a certain dollar level only retards the process in which deutschmark and dollar must find the "correct" parity.

It has also been alleged that the Bundesbank, through its interventions on foreign exchange markets, has circulated too much money, thus creating a dangerous inflation potential by providing monetary scope for future price increases.

It is already abvious, the critics say, that the Bundesbank's money supply target for 1978 — an average increase by about eight per cent over the previous year — will inevitably be exceeded because it is impossible to engage simultaneously in an exchange rate policy and a stability-promoting money supply policy.

Is this a repetition of the dilemma familiar from the time of fixed exchange rates in the early 70s, when the obligatory support of the dollar infected us with the international inflation virus?

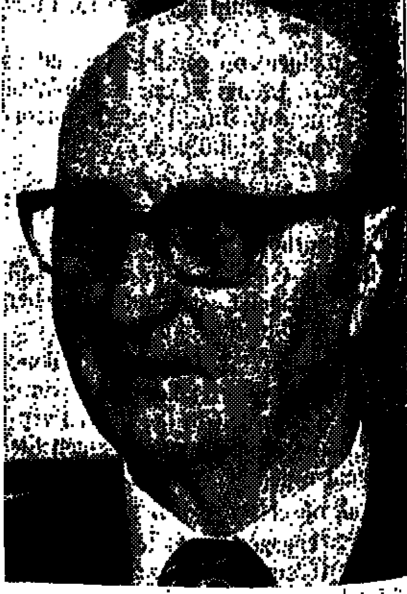
In reality, today's situation is different in many ways: We do not defend a fixed exchange rate and have no fixed line of resistance, although we are accused of it notwithstanding repeated statements to the contrary and notwithstanding facts.

We are intervening in order to prevent hectic *exchange rate fluctuations* and chaotic conditions on the foreign exchange market (a course of action which we are obliged to purpose in line with the international rules of the game of the IMF).

In view of the hundreds of billions of dollars held throughout the world by monetary authorities, business and private individuals, an unchecked fall of the dollar could lead to enormous shiftings of money and, in a panic, accelerate the drop in the exchange rate.

With it all, we did not operate counter to basic market trends on foreign exchange markets. We did not prevent (and could not have prevented) the dollar from losing close to 14 per cent of its value in relation to the deutschmark since mid-1977, and the deutschmark from gaining on the dollar by close to 17 per cent, although it had not been markedly undervalued before.

Since mid-January, the pressure on the dollar-deutschmark parity has diminished. The net foreign exchange balance of the Bundesbank, reflecting the total of all central bank foreign exchange operations, rose on the asset side



Otmar Emminger
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Continued on page 7

■ BUSINESS

Opec oil money investment flood turns out a trickle

Foreign investment in the Fed. Rep. of Germany
Net capital payments from 1. 9. 1961 to 31. 12. 1976 totalled DM45,52 thousand million

From countries in million deutschmarks

Country	
Netherlands (EEC countries)	5 849
Britain (EEC countries)	4 409
France (EEC countries)	2 878
Belgium/Luxemb. (EEC countries)	2 444
Rest of EEC (EEC countries)	671
Switzerland	7 261
Rest of Europe	1 518
USA	17 693
Rest of America	1 881
Asia	1 507
Africa	39
Australasia	21

To industrial sectors in million deutschmarks

Sector	
Mineral oil manufacturing	5 954
Joint stock ventures	4 935
Mechanical engineering	4 108
Electrotechnical and electronics	4 073
Chemicals	3 507
Banks and insurance	3 503
Auto industry	2 308
Iron and steel	2 260
Foodstuffs	1 919

ZAHLENBILDER

Germany ranks third, far behind the United States and Britain, as an investment country for the oil-producing nations.

Participation in such world-renowned companies as Krupp and Daimler-Benz has been too much in demand, while equities in other firms find few takers.

Initially, the oil-producing countries invested their money primarily on a short-term basis. This is why, in 1974, the first year of mammoth surpluses (an unprecedented 55,000 million dollars) virtually half of this money flooded the Eurodollar market. Next to that market, the United States exerted the greatest attraction.

The German capital market had relatively little attraction by comparison. As an aftermath of defensive measures against the influx of speculation money during the major international monetary crisis, Germany maintained barriers against foreign capital in 1974 and part of 1975.

These included compulsory cash deposits for foreign obligations and a ban on the ceding to foreigners of domestic accounts receivable. These measures were rescinded in the autumn of 1974, while the ban on interest for foreign depositors was not lifted until the autumn of 1975.

The oil-producing nations had high balance of payments surpluses in relation to Germany in 1974.

According to the Federal Republic of Germany's monthly report of July 1977, the balance of trade surpluses of the Opec countries as a whole rose to DM10,000 million in 1974 compared with DM1,700 in 1973. Balance of payments surpluses increased from DM2,300 million to DM10,700 million.

But due to the Opec countries' rapidly rising imports — above all for their new investment projects — the surpluses diminished in 1975 and 1976 to relatively small amounts. The balance of trade surpluses amounted to DM100 million and DM800 million for the two years, and the balance of payments surpluses to DM300 million and DM900 million.

In 1977 Germany even achieved a surplus in its trade with the Opec countries of about DM1,500 million, and thus a small surplus in the balance of payments.

The first major capital investment by an Opec country in the Federal Republic of Germany was Iran's participation in the Krupp concern.

In September 1974, Iran acquired 25.01 per cent of the capital of the Fried. Krupp Hüttenwerk AG in Bochum through the state-owned Iranian Steel Industries Company, Teheran. This amounted to a nominal DM143.35 million of DM573 million. But the actual price for the block is estimated at DM350 million.

The main purpose was not so much to invest liquid capital as to usher in a closer cooperation between Iranian industry and a German company with a highly developed technology and established world-wide business.

The second major participation, the acquisition of about 14 per cent of the DM1,189 million capital of Daimer-Benz, Stuttgart, by Kuwait (from the Quandt group) at the beginning of December 1974, was more to invest liquid capital.

The price is said to have been between DM800 and DM1,000 million.

The Quandt group was the third largest stockholder after the Flick group with 29 per cent and Deutsche Bank with more than 25 per cent.

Immediately thereafter it was rumoured that Kuwait wanted to acquire the Flick stock as well and that other Arab countries were also interested in such a deal.

This gave rise to fears that the Opec countries, with their liquid capital, wanted to acquire controlling interests in major German companies and would thus exert influence on their business policy. This would have a detrimental *effect on the companies' images, especially for foreign business*, and that it would harm the German economy as a whole.

As a result, Deutsche Bank decided to put an end to speculation about Daimer-Benz and acquired 29 per cent of the Flick group's stock, the latter having said that it would not sell the remaining 10 per cent it held.

In April 1975, Iran bought a 25 per cent equity in the Babcock and Wilcox (London) subsidiary Deutsche Babcock & Wilcox, amounting to a nominal DM127 million.

There, too, the prime objective was not the investment of liquid capital but economic cooperation.

Immediately after the deal, Deutsche Babcock received an order for building a power station in Iran.

Iran has been constantly enlarging its links with Krupp. In Zurich it founded the joint enterprise Iran-Krupp Investment AG.

In November 1976, it bought equities of 40 per cent in each of two Brazilian subsidiaries of Krupp.

The previous month, Iran concluded a deal for a 25.01 per cent participation in the Krupp holding company Fried. Krupp GmbH, whose capital was until then held solely by the Krupp Foundation and was subsequently increased from DM500 million to DM700 million.

No other major participations by the Opec countries in German companies have taken place since then.

According to the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry, total investments of Arab, Middle East and African oil-producing nations amounted to DM479.1 million at 30 June 1977. But these are nominal values, the current rate of which is much higher.

This is less than one per cent of all foreign investments in Germany. German investments (also in nominal terms) in those countries amount to DM1,010 million, slightly more than two per cent of German investments abroad.

Bank deposits of Opec countries and purchases of German securities are relatively small. The Bundesbank estimates security purchases at the end of 1976 at DM1,500 million. This figure is since likely to have reached DM2,000 million.

Credits in connection with the import of oil are likely to be a similar size, while down payments to German suppliers *amount to DM3,000 million*.

German claims for unpaid or not fully paid shipments are estimated at DM5,000 million.

According to Bundesbank figures, the oil-producing nations had assets of DM17,500 million in the Federal Republic of Germany at the end of 1976. Germany's assets in those countries were DM15,500 million.

This ratio approached a balance in the course of 1977 due to the increase of German export credits.

Heinz Pentzlin

(Die Welt, 4 April 1978)

Continued from page 6

by a mere DM1,500 million in the two-and-a-half months from mid-January to the end of March, compared with about SM14,000 million in the period from October to mid-January.

All in all, the foreign exchange influx up to now is disagreeably high, but no greater in volume than the influx from the Snake during the two monetary crises of 1976. (At that time some of this influx flowed out again).

Has the Bundesbank's control over the money supply been hopelessly steamrollered by this development? Has the Bundesbank sacrificed its money supply target to its foreign exchange policy?

Not at all. We did not fatalistically accep the increased liquidity due to foreign exchange purchases. A considerable part of excess liquidity has been neutralised with ease.

At present, the "free liquidity reserves" of the banks are lower than before the influx of foreign exchange began in the autumn of 1977.

A more difficult problem is the reversal of the excessive expansion of the central bank money supply from mid-1977 to January 1978, since the money supply in the four months from October 1977 to January 1978 rose at an annual rate of about 14 per cent. Meanwhile, this expansion of the money supply has slowed down again.

In February and March together it reached an average annual rate of seven per cent, which is not in excess of our medium-range target.

We can relax and wait to see whether this development, in line with our medium-term target concerning money supply expansion, will continue.

We have not pursued a hectic monetary policy hitherto and do not intend to do so in the future. Sudden excessive reactions to stem the expansion of the money supply would be out of keeping with our domestic economic situation as well as with the foreign exchange position.

The Bundesbank can tolerate a temporary exceeding of the money supply target because, for one thing, there is no sign of a general increase in money demand and, for another, because the excessive deutschmark exchange rate not only dampens the upswing but also acts as a brake on prices.

We only need to take a look at the latest development of import and export prices to see how much pressure the "real" upward revaluation of the deutschmark exerts on prices and profits in large segments of German business.

The scope for passing on price and cost increases has thus been restricted more directly and more effectively than could diminish. Such a change of the money supply.

Things could, of course change one day, and the "real" upward revaluation of the deutschmark, with the attendant dampening effect on prices and costs, could diminish. Such a change of the monetary situation at some future date would have to be taken into account by monetary policy as well.

But such uncertainties as to the future are no reason to disregard today's drastic effects of foreign exchange parities on demand, economic development and prices in shaping monetary policy.

In summing up, I would like to say: Monetary policy, including money supply policy, cannot be viewed and treated isolated today. Instead, it must be seen in the context of foreign exchange rate developments.

The flexible exchange rate with its effects on demand and prices must be viewed as an additional dimension of monetary policy.

The dollar intervention of the past few months led to our considerably exceeding the money supply target until January 1978.

Viewed under medium-term aspects, this no doubt merits special attention and alertness. But the strong upward trend of the deutschmark exchange rate also has a deflationnary effect which is an adequate counterbalance for the possibly inflationary impulses emanating from the increased money supply.

Foreign exchange interventions with flexible exchange rates must therefore be viewed differently from such interventions in a system of fixed exchange rates in which the price-dampening counterbalance emanating from exchange rates is non-existent.

This is not unimportant in assessing stability risks arising from foreign exchange intervention within the European Snake.

Otmar Emminger

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 April 1978)

■ SHIPPING

Tankers set to collide with environmental protection

Frankfurter Rundschau

Even without the latest oil pollution disaster off the Brittany coast it is obvious that environmental protection and shipping are on a collision course.

The *Amoco Cadiz* disaster was preceded by the *Torrey Canyon*, the *Sansinena* and the *Argo Merchant* accidents. The common denominator was that they all flew flags of convenience.

But even without such disasters, shipping is one of the major polluters.

Greed and irresponsibility are the prime causes.

Defying strict legislation, ships still empty their engine sumps at sea.

The master of the *Amoco Cadiz* steered a course outside the prescribed shipping lanes in order to save a few tons of fuel.

What can the authorities do to reduce pollution risks? The UN Law of the Sea conference (its seventh round has just begun in Geneva) has so far revised 45 articles governing environmental protection and responsibility.

But so far no solution has been found. For one thing, every country has to take conflicting interests into account: excessively strict environmental protection laws would paralyse shipping, while full freedom would damage the environment. For another thing, the Law of the Sea Convention under review is a treaty between states. This means it can impose restrictions on individual countries but not on shipowners, oil companies and insurers.

Even if the new law of the sea comes to pass, it would not be quite worthless for environmental protection. The extension of territorial waters from three to 12 miles, with an adjoining economic zone of 188 miles, would permit countries to apply their own environmental laws over a larger area.

The present draft articles entitle national authorities to board and inspect foreign vessels up to 200 miles offshore if they doubt their seaworthiness.

Countries can also demand that vessels in their extended territorial waters comply with international safety standards.

These standards, governing the construction, crew and equipment of a vessel, are under constant review by the International Maritime Committee (IMC), which has a membership of 100 countries.

But it sometimes takes a serious disaster before the committee introduces new regulations. For instance, following the *Amoco Cadiz* it is now contemplating the introduction of a new regulation whereby the hydraulics of steering mechanisms in tankers must be duplicated to prevent failure.

According to the proposed law of the sea, coast guard cutters may board vessels within the 200-mile zone in cases of violations of safety regulations or environmental laws if considerable damage has been caused or is likely.

A special law of the sea tribunal is also envisaged.

On the other hand, countries would have to ensure that vessels sailing under their flags complied with international safety standards.

It is possible that flag of convenience countries – above all Liberia – will refuse to join the Law of the Sea Convention or simply ignore their commitments. They would then find themselves in a difficult position, however, because their vessels would be barred from many parts of the world.

Various environmental protection societies have expressed doubts whether the proposed regulations will work.

Most delegates to the Law of the Sea conference believe the 45 environmental articles will reconcile conflicting interests. But the convention is still in the making. Negotiations have been going on for five years and there is no end in sight.

The question is: what proportions must disasters reach before effective measures are taken?

Pierre Simonitsch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 April 1978)

Owners to pay for shipping disaster harm

Shipowners throughout the world will have to pay for environmental damage caused by the mistakes of their ships' masters when a regulation passed by the UN conference on sea freight comes into force.

The first UN conference on German soil passed the "Hamburg Regulations" with 75 nations voting in favour of the convention and three abstaining.

The Hamburg regulations will replace the 1924 international convention and the 1968 Brussels Protocol when they have been ratified by at least 10 nations.

The most important change is that the carrier's liability will be extended to a number of accidents for which the shipper has not been entitled to compensation under present legislation.

This applies primarily to accidents caused by navigational errors of master and crew. Shipowners bore virtually no liability in such cases up to now.

Another novelty is liability in connection with container shipments, not included in the pre-container 1924 convention.

Furthermore, the liability duration has been extended for the entire period in which the cargo is in the care of the shipowner.

The agreement applies regardless of the nationality of the vessel, shipper, consignee or any other person directly involved. Even nationals of countries which do not accept the Hamburg regulations can be held liable, something likely to give rise to intricate legal disputes.

The UN conference also agreed on liability limits based on a fictious monetary unit, the special drawing rights of the IMF. According to today's exchange rate, the limits amount to DM6.20 per kilo of cargo (about DM2,200 per cargo unit).

This means that in case of the total loss of a freighter carrying 20,000 tons of cargo, the maximum liability would be about DM120 million.

Professor Rolf Herber, the head of the German delegation whose astuteness saw to it that the conference agreed on a compromise after more than three weeks, said afterwards: "The negotiations were extremely difficult, especially in the final phase. The compromise was made possible only by the willingness of the parties to limit the liability."

Franz Wauschkuhn

(Die Welt, 1 April 1978)

Parties join to fight menace in North Sea

Politicians of all parties have started an all-out campaign against flag of convenience tankers off the German North Sea coast.

They want these vessels, registered in Liberia or Panama, often inadequately crewed and frequently too old to be fully seaworthy, barred from the North Sea and the English Channel.

CDU member of parliament Narjes even wants to limit the age of tankers to 15 years.

Since the oil pollution caused by the supertanker *Amoco Cadiz* off Brittany, environment and coastal protection experts in Northern Germany realise that the Federal Republic of Germany would also find it extremely difficult to cope with such a disaster.

Hamburg, Bremerhaven and above all the oil port Wilhelmshaven are the destinations of many mammoth tankers. The approaches lead through the treacherous shallows off the mouths of the Elbe and Weser Rivers.

The hulk of the foundered tanker *Fides* still serves as a macabre warning ten years after the event. Fortunately the vessel was nearly empty when it ran aground.

With the cooperation of all North German coastal states, Hamburg established a Sea and Coastal Oil Pollution Committee to coordinate measures should an emergency arise.

Its equipment includes 600-metre floating oil barriers, but their usefulness is doubtful. Sprinklers would enable pollution fighters to distribute 500 cubic metres of chemicals to dissolve the oil slick.

It has long been demanded that mammoth tankers be built to the strictest standards, including double bottoms, and that their crews have the highest qualifications.

Most shipowners abide by international safety regulations but they are not binding in international law because some countries have not ratified them.

As a result thousands of unseaworthy or shoddily built tankers – mostly under flags of convenience – ply the seas.

The 11 tankers which foundered off the US coast between 15 December 1976 and 18 January 1977 in an unprecedented series of accidents had a total age of 194 years. Ten sailed under flags of convenience.

Thomas Wolgast

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 1 April 1978)

■ **ART**

A collection to stun the imagination

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The death of art collector Robert von Hirsch at the age of 94 in Basle, Switzerland, did not at first rate a mention in the German press.

Two weeks later his death was given a few lines. Then reporters realised the significance of the event and a storm of speculation broke loose.

One rumour was that the Hirsch collection was to go up for auction at Sotheby's in London. People started making estimates and speculating about possible buyers even before anyone knew exactly what works Hirsch had in his collection.

Hirsch's elegant late 19th century villa in an exclusive suburb of Basle was for many years a Mecca for museum directors and art connoisseurs from all over the world.

But not, it seems, from Germany. The collector's contacts with German museum directors do not appear to have been close. Some of Hirsch's collection is now on show at the Städelmuseum in Frankfurt, yet most reviews and accounts of the collection in German newspapers were vague and colourless.

This may be because the legendary collection exceeds the bounds of most imaginations. In view of this, it seems appropriate to give some details of von Hirsch's life and collection.

Hirsch came from Offenbach, a centre of the German leather industry of which



Edouard Manet's *Camille Pissarro* in the Hirsch collection.

he was a leading member. He moved to Frankfurt and lived in a palace in the Bockheimer Landstrasse, then the most exclusive area in the city.

In 1907, at the age of 24, Hirsch bought a work by Picasso, a street scene. This is one of the very few works by Picasso which have not been catalogued, not even by Vollard. The picture remained unknown outside a small circle of art experts because Hirsch did not like to loan his works to museums. This priceless collection of the coronation vestments of Barbarossa was not shown at the recent Staufer exhibition in Stuttgart even though it took pride of place in the exhibition catalogue.

Many of the works he bought were acquired with the purpose of leaving them to Frankfurt Museums — the Craft



El Greco's *Flight into Egypt*, one of the masterpieces from the collection of Robert von Hirsch on show at the Städelmuseum in Frankfurt. The collection will be auctioned in London after showings in Zurich and London. (Photos: Katalog)

Museum, the Liebig Haus (which shows the historical development of sculpture in civilised nations) and the Städel Art Institute with its fine collection of paintings and graphic works.

This would have been in the best tradition of the rich Frankfurt burghers who left their collections to the city for centuries, a tradition going back to the Middle Ages. Prominent Jewish citizens were noted for this practice in the 19th century, and Hirsch had every intention of carrying on the tradition.

When Hitler came to power in January 1933, Robert von Hirsch emigrated to Switzerland. He was allowed to take his art collection with him after he had given Hermann Göring his Cranach painting *Das Urteil des Paris* (The Judgement of Paris.)

The painting was returned to Hirsch after the war. He used it and five others, including works by Daumier, Cezanne and Degas, to pay off tax duties after the death of his wife in 1965. The paintings are now owned by the city of Basle and on show in the Basle Museum of Art.

In Basle Hirsch lived in the style of a grand seigneur, surrounded by paintings and art works of various epochs, in the midst of furniture which bore the stamp of style from the doorknobs to the humblest stool. The American art expert Berenson reckoned that Robert von Hirsch, along with the Stoclet brothers of Brussels, was one of the three most important art collectors in the world.

From 20 to the 27 June 1978, Hirsch's entire collection will be sold in four stages at Sotheby's in London. Before this, 160 objets d'art, the finest in his collection of over 600, are on exhibition. After Frankfurt, they go to Zürich, where they will be on show from 20 April to 1 May, and then they will be shown at the Royal Academy in London from 1 to 6 June.

The directors of the Frankfurt museums to which Hirsch originally intended to bequeath his collection played a major part in choosing the 160 items for the exhibitions. Hirsch left the city a Rembrandt drawing and a table by Ugolino Lorenzetti in his will.

The exhibition is overpowering and not only when we consider that only a short while ago it was in the hands of a private collector.

It can be compared with some American East Coast collections at the turn of the century in respect of paintings. What is most remarkable is the magnificent range of medieval and early German art, although the crowning masterpiece is the Siennese Madonna by Giovanni di Paolo. These works sets the standards by which all the exhibits are measured.

During the 1920s Hirsch collected reliquaries, altar pieces and aquamanile from the Guelph collection on expert advice. This was when he bought the armpiece from Barbarossa's coronation vestments (the other piece is in the Louvre) and the covering stone of the now lost reliquary of Stavelot.

Then there are the ivory works and the jewellery. In the same historial context we find the illuminated manuscripts of the 12th and 13th centuries.

The collection of German art is dominated by the magnificent Dürer water-colour *Trintperg*, which Hirsch bought from a Hanover institution for only DM20,000 in 1950, and by an Elsheimer copper plate.

Italian art is represented by works by Pinturicchio and drawings by Raphael, Veronese, Tiepolo and Piranesi.

Rembrandt, with five drawings, has a section to himself. Then come the modern painters in chronological order. The high points of this section are seven watercolours and four drawings by Cezanne. Hirsch was always particularly interested in Cézanne's work, and the paintings and drawings have been aranged as they were in Hirsch's own Basle study.

A visit to Frankfurt is worthwhile for the Cézanne works alone; they give an excellent insight into his phases and are as fresh as the day they were painted. It is only when one sees so many of hs works together that one can fully appreciate the importance of Cézanne's contribution to modern painting.

In the collection of modern classical French painting we find works and studies by Monet, Degas, Renoir, Gauguin, Toulouse-Lautrec and others. The section is crowned by four works by Seurat and four drawings by Van Gogh. Van Gogh's *Shepherdess* in based on a painting by Millet, a subtle paraphrase of the original. So too we find a Rubens drawing in the manner of Clouet, a Rembrandt drawing based on an Indian original, a Watteau

Continued on page 11

Mickey Mouse comes back as art form

The first German *Mickey Mouse* comic sold for 75 pfennigs in 1951. Today it sells for almost 400 times that amount, DM187,50. The first *Prinz Eisenherz* (silver on a blue background issue) which sold for DM1,50 when first published in 1951 now sells for 70 times the original amount: DM104.

These prices are only for top quality comics. Comic collectors divide them into seven categories, ranging from "mint" to "poor" which means torn and dogeared.

Just as there is a market for shares and loans in West German, so there is a market for old comics — and the chances of making a considerable profit are good.

Peter Orban, a Ph.D. student in Frankfurt, says: "Many comic readers of the early fifties cannot believe their ears when they hear how much the comics stored away in their attics of cellars are worth."

Orban is the editor of the first comic catalogue ever published in West Germany. It gives current values of old comics.

Andreas Knigge, editor of the collectors' magazine Comixene, says that only a few years ago, comics were dismissed as kid's stuff and trash.

This has changed since sociologists, psychologists and art historians have turned their attention to comics. The word "panelology" has been coined to describe serious research into comics.

It is reckoned that there are about 5000 comic collectors in this country today.

H. D. Dambacher, 38, of the Frankfurt Comic Book Club, has an explanation for the sudden collecting craze in Germany.

"People who are now collecting comics used to read hundreds of them when they were kids. Now they are round about 40 and they are rediscovering their childhood craze.

"They also realise that these comics can be a good investment."

The Frankfurt Comic Book Club reprints old comics otherwise unattainable because the prices are too high. This club has 650 members, including a state prosecutor in Hannover and a university professor in Bochum.

An original *Sigurd* comic which sold for 20 pfennig in 1953 today costs DM30. The Frankfurt Comic Club reprint costs DM3. The first 121 issues of *Nick, the Space Traveller* cost DM2469 and the reprints DM400.

Horst Zimmermann
(Welt am Sonntag, 2 April 1978)





Up, up and away: prices for old comics have taken off like Superman since collectors, sociologists, psychologists and art historians turned their attention to them. These two first German editions of Mickey Mouse and Superman are much sought after. (Photos: Katalog)

■ **ENTERTAINMENT**

Cheaper pop music imports deafen local disc industry



The popularity of American and English pop music and the drop in value of the dollar and the pound have hurt the German record industry.

Anglo-American pop is making big inroads on German television and radio, which means that the number of German-language songs played is decreasing.

The Anglo-Americans also dominate the record market. Last year 52 per cent of all pop records sold were in English.

The dollar fall and the widespread practice of taping songs off the radio or records has also damaged the German record industry.

Despite this, record firms in this country had an increase in turnover on cassettes and records of 14 per cent in 1977 as against 1976.

The pop scene last year was characterised by an amazing variety of styles. The disco sound blared its way to the forefront and a Spanish group called Santa Esmeralda made millions for its record company with a marathon version of the oldie *Please don't let me be misunderstood.*

The record company RCA made an unexpected but doubtless welcome bomb out of the death of Elvis Presley, selling DM30 million worth of records and cassettes in this country alone.

Then there were the sounds of the Bay City Rollers and Smokie, whose music is directed at teeny-boppers' hearts and pockets. The demure female duo Baccara added colour to the scene and DM11,3 million to their record company's turnover last year.

Englishman Roger Whittaker also did very nicely with his inimitable way of melting the hearts of the middle-aged, grossing DM17 million for his company. Top American artists such as Neil Diamond extended the musical range here and throughout the world. Diamond's record turnover in this country alone was DM10,5 million.

All these performers were put in the shade in deutschmark turnover last year by two German-based groups who took this country and Europe by storm. Boney M came top of the deutschmark profit pops, selling DM40 million worth of records and cassettes, followed by James Last whose big band sound grossed DM35 million.

Inevitably the Beatles were also in the top five. Sales of their albums last year totalled DM30 million. The Swedish beat group Abba sold records and cassettes worth DM22 million.

The German music industry sold a total of 161,1 million units, LP records, cassettes and singles. On top of this, 100 million clean cassettes were sold.

The German record industry has a turnover of DM2,000 million, comparatively small in overall economic terms, but nonetheless important for taste-forming (or taste-deforming).

Radio, television and leisure are dominated by music There is also the radio, tape and cassette recorder market, where prices range from DM50 for a cheap cassette recorder to DM100,000 for some hifi equipment — not to mention TV electronics. Records and cassettes are one of the two pillars of the entertainment industry.

Despite the bewildering variety of styles and the 15 per cent jump in turnover, the phonogram industry in this country had its problems last year, caused mainly by the drop in the US dollar. This meant that US records were selling for about ten deutschmarks, whereas new German records cost just under DM20.

Britain and France were also helped by the drop in value in their currency which meant that they could sell good records for just under ten deutschmarks. And as just about all new releases on the international pop market are by English and American groups, American record companies can airfreight their records direct from the USA and London and sell them at giveaway prices long before their German subsidiaries can issue them under licence at German price.



Sound customers: three contributors to Germany's multi-million deutschmark music industry listen raptly at a music fair record bar. While foreign pop dominated the local market last year, German groups took Europe by storm. (Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

The German Music Industry Association estimates that about 20 per cent of all cassettes and records sold in this country are direct cheap imports to wholesalers or sold through chain record stores such as Govi and record supermarkets such as Mars.

Latest releases by English and American groups are being sold at DM12 eight weeks before German subsidiaries can bring them out under licence.

German subsidiaries thus often find themselves with huge stocks of unsold records. Companies affected are CBS, WEA and RCA but also German companies such as Grammophon and Ariola which have licence arrangements with US companies.

The DM200 million worth of direct imports and the DM500 million worth of clean cassettes sold make export difficult and mean a loss of royalties for singers and song-writers. But despite this there was a 15 per cent increase in exports last year.

This success is due to developments on the German music scene. Apart from James Last and Boney M, groups and singers such as Klaus Schulze, Kraftwerk, Udo Lindenberg and Udo Jürgens and song-writers such as Michael Kunze and Peter Thomas, Brandin and Hachfeldt, to mention but a few, have reached international standards and now have many imitators.

The German sentimental or "schmaltz" hit was the big loser on the 1977 music market. Classical record sales went up 14 per cent and are top of the Western classical sales league.

As for the record companies, Grammophon and EMI-Electrola were neck-and-neck for most of the year but Grammophon finally squeezed home with 18,8 per cent of the market as against EMI's, 17.2 per cent. They were followed by Ariola, Phonogram, Teldec, CBS and then by K-tel and Arcade, which both advertise heavily on TV.

There was a big boom on children's records last year with more than 15 million records sold. The records of popular television series such as Heidi, Pinocchio, Kimba the Lion and Maya the Bee were most popular, selling more than four million in all.

Cassettes are clearly becoming more and more popular with children. Last year for the first time as many cassettes as as records were sold to children — 15 million.

Cassettes generally continue to make headway against records. In 1976, the cassette-record ratio was 33:67. Last year it had gone up to 36:64. It is expected that the ratio will be 40:60 in 1978 with the trend moving inexorably towards cassettes. By 1980, more cassettes than records will probably be sold.

Reginald Rudorf
(Deutsche Zeitung, 31 March 1978)

Continued from page 10

imitation of Bassan's style, and portraits by Ingres and Dalacroix in the manner of Holbein.

Three of the Cézanne works are also painted in the manner of other artists, which leads us to suppose that Hirsch was preoccupied with the idea of continuity, perpetual renewal and the interrelations between the various styles in European art.

The impending sale of this magnificent collection, the change of ownership and the dispersal of works which illuminate one another and are best seen together means that the writing is on the wall for European art collections.

Christa von Helmolt
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 March 1978)

Experts want TV to become stereophonic

Technical experts of the two German TV channels, ARD and ZDF, want to introduce stereophonic television sound.

According to Rudolf Kaiser, technical director of ZDF, transmitters have long been ready for the switch to stereo. By 1982 about 80 per cent of all viewers could have a second tone channel on their sets and the switchover would not be expensive.

On radio both stereo channels operate on the same broadcasting channel. For television the system is different. In the new plans, the two tone channels will operate on separate wavelengths independently of the picture signals.

The reason for this dual system is that TV programme planners not only want to broadcast programmes in stereo but also to broadcast interviews with foreigners and foreign language films in two versions, the original and the dubbed.

The present radio system would be unsuitable for two-language broadcasts. On radio, the two channels overlap slightly. This is hardly noticeable in broadcasts but it would cause considerable interference to two language broadcasts.

At present on mono television sets the sound channel is above the picture channel. The new second tone channel would also be above the present tone channel.

For today's TV sets to pick up stereo sound, left and right information would have to be broadcast together, whereas on the new channel the difference between the two would be broadcast.

It is theoretically possible to broadcast on both channels as on stereo radio. This would effectively mean that four channels in all would be available. The TV programme planners do not, however, appear to be interested in the possibility of quadrophonic sound.

It would be unrealistic to expect the quality of stereo sound on TV to match radio. For example, it would not be possible to hear actors talking louder on one side of the screen then on the other. There is no doubt that the quality of musical broadcasts would be considerably better and clearer if this stereo system were introduced.

Hifi is also out of the question. Sets readjusted to receive the stereo broadcasts could only pick up up to 12,500 Hertz, just under an octave below the highest tones receivers must be able to pick up to meet hifi requirements.

It is also unlikely that most middle-aged and older people would be able to notice the difference between the new TV sound quality and high fidelity.

Walter Baier
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 March 1978)

■ PEOPLE

One man's lonely fight to break out of the prison of stuttering

One would expect Wolfgang Kölle, president of the Stutterers Self-help Society in Baden-Württemberg, to be a person marked by countless defeats in the struggle for normal speech.

But I met a self-assured man without inhibitions. My telephone conversation with Herr Kölle, 28, had been difficult because telephone calls, because of their unexpectedness, are major hurdles for stutterers. I could almost see the sweat on his brow as he struggled for coherence.

The speech of the suave, well-dressed man in the pub was marked only by a slight hesitation as he chose his words. There was no sign of stuttering. He seemed deliberately to brake his flow of speech from time to time.

He said he was determined not to create the illusion of absolutely faultless speech – neither in himself nor in his conversation partner.

"Otherwise," he said, "the desire to speak fluently develops enormous stresses and strains."



Wolfgang Kölle

(Photo: Stotterer-Selbsthilfe e.V.)

Undue demands on himself expose the stutterer to pressures causing total speech blockage and spasms in the speech and respiratory organs, in some instances turning the face blue.

Herr Kölle spoke frankly about the affliction shared by one million people in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Little is said about these unfortunates because they try to hide their handicap behind a wall of silence.

"I am certain that you have met many stutterers who made themselves conspicuous, not through their speech but through their silence," Wolfgang Köller said.

"As opposed to physically handicapped people like *paraplegics*, for instance, the stutterer tends to hide his affliction because it is not visible outwardly."

The objective of Herr Kölle's organisation is to destroy the invisible shield that separates the stutterer from his environment by information and public relations work.

In its information leaflets, the society (present membership 35) draws attention to ten other such self-help groups in this country, but does not appeal for donations. The aim is to inform the public about the causes of stuttering.

We learn from it that stuttering occurs between the ages of four and eight due to difficulties in the parental home, excessive strictness or excessive permissiveness.

The exact causes have not yet been fully fathomed. The only factor which all stutterers have in common are the problems mentioned. It is also possible that stutterers have an organic predisposition.

Continuous communication difficulties lead to the withdrawal of the afflicted person, they erode his self-confidence and make him so inhibited in person-to-person relations that *his handicap eventually develops into a total, self-imposed* block.

"Little by little," said Herr Kölle, "stuttering itself no longer poses the greatest problem and is replaced by phobias, inferiority complexes and e feeling of isolation."

Manfred Kölle suffered from his handicap for many years before he managed to make positive use of his own experience and convey it to others.

At the age of ten, his stuttering consisted of mere hectic repetition of syllables and consonants, The family doctor prescribed tranquillisers and told his parents that all would turn out well.

From the seventh grade the boy virtually no longer spoke in the classroom. His reports were based only on marks for written work and carried the comment: "He was a silent participant".

Whenever a new teacher took over the class, young Kölle trembled for fear of being called upon to speak.

On finishing school, vocational counsellors advised him to find an occupation requiring no verbal communication. Wolfgang Kölle thus became a mechanic, although he would have preferred to have gone into commerce.

Later he hoped that his best bet would be to join the family taxi business. Then his favourite trips were those which took him abroad where he could gloss over his affliction.

The difficulties became virtually insurmountable when he had to take over a radio cab and found that he was unable to reply to a call. He tried to overcome this by using a tape recorder – to no avail.

"This gives you the frightening feeling of total dependence on technology, making you even more helpless."

With the help of his wife, he again resorted to technical aids when running a motorbike workshop. He used only caseltes for the telephone, the most formidable hurdle for every stutterer because of the anonymity of the caller.

Kölle did not give up and finished his secondary school education by night courses.

Following psychotherapy and speech training, he resumed his contact with those around him. He advertised and arranged meetings with fellow stutterers. This eventually led to the formation of a group whose members encouraged each other. Due to Kölle's initiative, similar groups have sinde been formed in a *number of Baden-*Württemberg cities. His wife, a teacher, helps with the work, ans as one of the group members wryly put it: "She's even learned to stutter along with the rest of us." The group consists mainly of academics. People with less education started coming but stopped after a while. Psychological discussions were not to their taste.

The mood at the weekly meetings, frequently attended by psychologists and speech therapists, is anything but depressed. The atmosphere is happy and the stutterers experiment with the vicissitudes of their situation.

Says one of the group, a university student: "Despite setbacks, things have been improving since I joined the group. *But today I happen to have one* of my bad days."

The evening I attended the group members discussed speech techniques with a woman psychologist and compared their experiences, giving reasons for seemingly different results.

Despite group support, everyone must help himself in the end. But the group has the beneficial effect of building self-confidence and reducing fear of failure.

The information sheets are the mainstay of the society. They give addresses of psychologists, information about courses and weekend exercises and lists of helpful literature.

The group also organises parties, excursions and joint vacations.

Wolfgang Kölle, a student of psychology and "an emancipated stutterer", sums up his work: "We can only combat difficulties if we take them upon ourselves, which is frequently painful and burdensome."

Speaking to his group, he stressed time and again that the attitude to adopt was: "I learn how to stutter and feel good about it."

Theo Wurm

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 March 1978)



Hard riders

Paraplegic Rainer Bosch, 30 of Munich, and Englishman Jerry Kinsella, 28, a victim of infantile paralysis, set out from Hamburg on a marathon two-wheel ride to Liverpool to publicise a kindergartenfor the disabled in Liverpool founded by Kinsella. (Photo: dpa)

Device helps blind hear by touching

Electronics students in Furtwangen, Baden-Württemberg, helped by their teacher, Professor Hansrichard Schulz, have developed a torch-sized radar set for the blind.

According to Professor Schulz's assistant, F. Göhring, it is a breakthrough. "Although it does not replace the seeing-eye dog, it makes the tapping stick obsolete."

By designing the device the students proved their capability for practical work even before finishing their studies. It was made possible by DM20,000 donated by industry.

Twenty prototypes are now being built at the university, the cost partially borne by the Protestant Church of Baden.

The first devices will be given to blind people for testing. Assembly line production will follow.

The device operates along the lines of a ship's radar except that it uses sound instead of electromagnetic waves. The battery-operated set detects obstacles and enables the blind person to orientate himself. The signals are transmitted through a vibrating button and increase with the proximity of the obstacle.

By moving the device back and forth, the blind person can also gauge the width and height of obstacles at a distance of two metres.

"We have deliberately omitted acoustic signals in order not to overburden the sense of hearing," a student says.

There are about 80,000 blind people in the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Furtwanten device can make them more mobile.

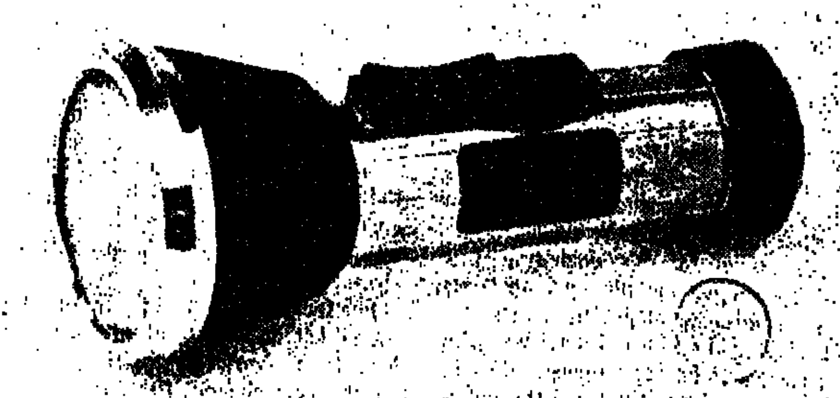
When mass-produced the device will cost DM200–300.

University Rector Professor Löhn is full of praise for his students.

"Their objective was a cheap and simple orientation aid for the blind – and they achieved it one hundred per cent."

Dieter Frauenheim

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 14 March 1978)



Closely resembling a conventional torch, this hand-held radar set developed by Furtwangen electronics students may make the tapping stick used by the blind obsolete. (Photo: Fachhochschule Furtwangen)

■ EDUCATION

Industry survey gives low marks to graduates of several universities

Kiel economist Reinhart Schmidt has assessed the prospects of German university graduates in industry and has given those from Frankfurt, Marburg, Berlin, Heidelberg and Bremen very low marks. Schmidt, writing in the Hamburg *Manager Magazin*, bases his conclusion on a poll of personnel managers of leading German industrial companies and personnel consultants.

Schmidt, dean of the faculty of economics and social science at Kiel University, asked the personnel managers and consultants to assess the prospects of graduates of the 50 universities in this country the traditional universities, the technical universities, the comprehensive universities and the two Bundeswehr academies.

the purpose of the poll, taken in the winter term of 1976-77 was "to arrive at an assessment of university graduates in general and to find out how particular universities were assessed and what these assessments were based on."

Schmidt sought the opinions of personnel managers because they were "important direct or indirect factors in the demand for university graduates."

According to Hans Dichgans, formerly a leading official of the German Confederation of Industry, private industry employs 2000 graduates a year. Federal Ministry of Education statistics show that 100,000 students per year pass examinations at universities and 10,000 pass either the state examination in law or the diploma in economic and social sciences.

The Kiel economist also sent questionnaires to all major personnel consultants.The Association of German Industrial Consultants supplied Herr Schmidt with the addresses. He also wrote to the personnel managers of 80 leading industrial firms, chosen because they had given exhaustive and useful answers in a previous poll.

Herr Schmidt concedes that his selection was arbitrary. In all, 36.3 per cent answered. Almost all the answers were anonymous.

The technical universities of aachen, Darmstadt, Braunschweig, Munich and Hannover topped the personnel men's list. Also in the first 20 were universities such as Kiel, Cologne, Stuttgart, Freiburg, Göttingen, Hamburg, Münster and Tübingen, universities where the political polarisation is similar to that of the bottom five universities.

Half-way down the list were some traditional universities such as Würzburg and a large numbers of more recently founded institutes of higher education, such as the Bundeswehr academies, the universities of Oldenburg and Regensburg, the comprehensive universities in North-Rhine Westphalia, the University of Constance and the Technical University of Berlin.

The main criteria of the assessments were what the managers believed to be the standards at the universities concerned ((67 per cent), personal experience of the comptence of their graduates within the company (64 per cent), and the personnel managers' own experience or contacts with the universities (60 per cent.)

The practical orientation of the courses or the academic reputation of the professors played only a subordinate part in the assessments.

The criteria were decisive in the personnel managers' assessment of the "quality of university graduates." Managers clearly attached less importance to the varying university regulations in the Länder and the introduction of fixed periods of studay.

The managers attached great importance to courses being well and tightly organised and students having exam certificates to prove their competency in certain courses. The managers clearly did not approve of students working out courses of study for themselves.

Reinhart Schmidt conludes: "German personnel managers and consultants have very definite opinions about the differences between certain universities – and this can be very much to the disadvantage of students who take courses, and frequently have no choice but to take courses, at certain of these universities."

Jutta Roitsch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 March 1978)

School-leavers fighting for job training

Competition for apprenticeships and traineeships is getting tougher, despite the increase in both by over 100,000 to 559,000 in 1977.

This is particularly noticeable in banking and industry. It is common for banks to receive up to 20 applications for one clerical post.

The result is that *Hauptschule* (secondary modern school) leavers have little chance of getting a training. More and more school-leavers with better and better qualifications are coming on to the job market. There is a trend for pupils with the *Abitur* (the university entrance qualification) to apply for apprenticeships and traineeships instead of applying for universities.

Hauptschule leavers still have fair chances of finding an apprenticeship in the skilled manual trades. Most apprentices here come from the Hauptschulen. The Flensburg Chamber of Trades' apprenticeship statistics show that the widespread fear that school-leavers with Abitur and School Leaving Certificates could force Hauptschule pupils out of these jobs is largely unfounded.

Although there is still no reason for concern among Hauptschule pupils, an increasing number of school-leavers with the Abitur seem to be interested in skilled manual trades. In 1974, only 0.88 per cent of all apprentices in the Cologne district had the Abitur; in 1975 the figure rose to 1.46 per cent and in 1976 to 3.23 per cent.

Occupations which leavers with the Abitur find particularly attractive are as dental technicians, ophthalmists, carpenters, radio and television mechanics and car mechanics,

Many experienced dental technicians hesitate to take on Abitur pupils as apprentice technicians because their apprenticeships are shorter and this can cause problems.

Düsseldorf figures supplied by the Düsseldorf Chamber of Trade and Industry, show what strides pupils with Abitur and the equivalent are making in commerce.

They show that whereas in 1973 only 9.3 per cent of all commercial trainees had the Abitur, the figure for 1977 was 31.3. In industry, the number of leavers with Abitur rose from 31.2 per cent in 1976 to 49 per cent in 1977.

Simultaneously the number of trainees with the school-leaving certificate fell from 56.2 to 43.7 per cent. In banking, the number of trainees with the Abitur rose from 47 per cent in 1976 to 55.3 per cent in 1977, while the numbet of pupils with the school-leaving certificate sank from 48 to 44 per cent.

This trend is also evident in the statistics published by companies and banks. The Deutsche Bank took on between 1400 dnd 1500 trainees last year and the proportion of leavers with Abitur rose.

In 1975, 37.5 per cent of them had had the Abitur. In 1976 the figure had risen to 52 per cent.

The proportion of pupils with Abitur and Commercial Schoool certificates is not much lower in the savings banks. Of new trainees taken on last year, 2.6 per cent had the basic leaving certificate, 9.2 per cent had this plus a competed commercial course, 44 per cent had the school leaving certificate and 33.1 per cent had the Abitur.

People in banking do not like to talk of less qualified applicants being crowded out. They explain the increasing number of trainees with Abitur in terms of more school-leavers coming on to the market with better qualifications after the period of educational expansion.

Then there is is the fact the number of school-leavers in the past few years has been very high.

In 1970, 143,800 school-leavers had the school-leaving certificate and 91,500 the Abitur. In 1976, 225,600 pupils had the school-leaving certificate and 198,000 the Abitur or equivalent.

By contrast, the number of pupils with basic leaving certificates remained almost constant: 348,200 in 19970, 351,600 in 1977. The number of pupils leaving the Hauptschule without any certificate fell from 140,300 in 1970 to 113,700 in 1976.

The reason why pupils with basic and school-leaving certificates are finding it harder to get apprenticeships should not only be sought in the higher number of better qualified school-leavers. There is also the drop in university applications.

According to the Federal Statistical Office, 87.2 per cent of all pupils with Abitur wanted to go to university in 1971. Today only 75.3 per cent have decided to go to university, 15.4 per cent are don't knows and 9.3 per cent do not intend to study at university.

The Bonn government is also reckoning with a growing number of pupils with Abitur coming straight on to the labour market. The 1978 Vocational Training Report assumes that ten per cent of all pupils with Abitur will take up a traineeship or apprenticeship this year. The figures for 1976 and 1977 were 4 and 5 per cent.

(Handelsblatt, 29 March 1978)

■ SOCIETY

Jobless women get new 'male' training

The Essen Vocational Promotion Centre and the Heinrichshütte steel mill in Hattingen are retraining jobless women for typically male occupations in a model project.

The aim is not only to relieve unemployment among women but also to counter the concentration of women on a few specific female occupations.

Projects are in operation in several federal states for school-leavers who do not necessarily want to wind up as doctors' receptionists, hairdressers and salesgirls. Financially supported by the Bonn Ministry for Education and Science, the firm Conti in Hanover is training 28 girls for specifically male trades such as turning, tool-making and electrical engineering.

What is to become the first trade for the girls in Hanover will be the second or even third vocation for some of those in Essen. In January 1977, 22 unemployed women were given an opportunity at the Essen centre to learn trades none of them would have considered possible for a woman.

They will leave the centre as qualified turners, communications mechanics and electronics repairers.

Most are aged between 20 and 30 and are single or divorced. Only eight had completed a vocational training as salesgirls, seamstresses or hairdressers.

Rosemarie Sabrowski, 21, will earn her living from the beginning of this month as a turner, taking home around DM1,000 a month.

"At first I thought I'd never make it," she says.

As the youngest of four, Rosemarie at first felt at a disadvantage because she had to help pay for the vocational training of her brothers and sisters.

She had been on the dole for six months when she was offered a chance to retrain at the centre. Having always been interested in machinery, she enjoyed working on the lathe.

Trainees spend the mornings working under the supervision of a master turner described by the girls as a "grand chap." The bugbear was theoretical instruction, where the girls once again faced old school fears. But this was to some extent overcome by an educational social worker.

Says Gisbert Redeker, one of the social workers: "We must give them self-confidence because they are prejudiced against their own sex – a prejudice they adopted from male society.

"In the beginning they were frightened of the machinery and tried to prove to themselves that they were not suited to a male trade."

Herr Redeker made use of "social studies" to increase the women's self-confidence about male competition.

Brigitte Pepeljak, 23, also comes from a large family. She married at 18 and first worked as an unskilled seamstress. Then she spent five years packing sugar.

She, too, was unemployed for two years before the chance to retrain at the Essen centre. She benefited from having worked with machinery in her previous job and was even able to do small repairs.

Although her husband did not favour her retraining, he lent a hand with housework.

According to Gisbert Redeker, most husbands are rather sceptical and worried about the scheme because the centre also trains many men and they fear their marriages might wind up on the rocks. In an interim report, the training staff praise their pupils, emphasising their high degree of motivation and great willingness to learn. They say the quality of work is remarkable, attributing this primarily to excellent group spirit and solidarity. The problem for the Federal Labour Office will be to find employers who appreciate the trainees' accomplishment. The question is: will employers be prepared to forget old prejudices and give the women jobs commensurate with their skills.

Paul Wollek of the Labour Office intends to invite representatives of industry, the chambers of commerce and the trade unions to inspect the training facilities to convince them of the quality of work done there.

Should employers attempt to avoid employing women, using the lack of lavatories and showers as a pretext, there is a helpful incentive in the form of wage subsidies.

Another training centre in Hattingen-Ruhr has just begun work without having to worry about employment chances for its trainees.

The Heinrichshütte steel mill, a Thyssen subsidiary, guarantees employment to all its trainees if they pass the tests.

The women are being trained as material testers in two-year courses and as testers for so-called indestructible materials (three-year courses). Heinrichshütte has many openings for these jobs.

Unlike the Essen centre, the women in Hattingen are trained in the factory.

After the first motivation course, Irmgard Kroymann of the Confederation of German Trade Unions had every reason to be happy.

"We have never before had it happen that virtually all men were in favour of the scheme," she said.

Of the 30 trainees, three are over 40. Margaret Tietz is 46 and has a 27-year-old son. The most important thing for her was the job guarantee, knowing that at her age she stood no chance of getting a job elsewhere.

Barbara Schleich
(Vorwärts, 30 March 1978)



At Murnau in Bavaria the stationmaster's blue uniform has a skirt. That's because it is worn by Antonie Müller, 26, the first woman stationmaster in the Federal Republic of Germany. She is also in charge of several small stations nearby and gives orders to a mostly male staff of 90. A lot of people are likely to see her in action because Murnau is where the Munich-Garmisch-Innsbruck express puts off passengers for Oberammergau, scene of the passion play. (Photo: Deutsche Bundesbahn)

Project to help unemployed keep on trying

Frankfurter Rundschau

A Munich project called Self-help for Jobless has set out to help the long-term unemployed gain new courage and overcome their isolation.

The jobless are frequently faced with the prejudice that says those who want to work have no trouble finding a job.

Exposed to such accusations, the unemployed develop inferiority complexes and feel worthless to society.

Self-help for Jobless, using handbills, posters and advertisements, organises weekly get-togethers for the unemployed.

The action is based on the theory that problems are more easily solved in a group.

The meetings are organised by sociologists Ursula Seibt, 25, and Hans Joachim Wilkening, 30, both jobless for a long time.

The group jointly composes letters of application and deals with official correspondence.

In re-enactments, group members practice job interviews. But no job broking is done by the group, whose main aim is self-help.

The project, in operation for a year, is financially supported by the Protestant Church and the Munich branch of the Federal Labour Office.

Eighty jobless have so far taken part and two-thirds have found work.

To enable them to devote more attention to the young unemployed, the founders are now looking for premises to hold meetings and consultations.

Christiane Schlötzer
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 March 1978)

Green (and motley) Lists new worry for party politicians

The surprise success of the so-called "Green Lists" in the Schleswig-Holstein municipal elections, where they took the five per cent hurdle (the minimum requirement for a mandate) in two districts, has become a source of worry for politicians everywhere.

In the city-state of Hamburg, which goes to the polls on 6 June to elect the State Assembly, a new voters' initiative has been formed, calling itself *Bunte Liste* (freely translated: motley list), representing not only environmentalists but also a large number of minority groups ranging from students' organisations to convicts and homosexuals.

The new party includes some 200 widely differing groups, ranging from nuclear power opponents to crazy sects. The one thing they have in common is aversion to the Establishment.

The "motleys" chose as their emblem a purple butterfly on a yellow background.

They are standing for the State Assembly because, as Chairman Holger Strom, 35, put it: "We see no alternative but to put up a joint front against the established parties."

Strom is still a card-carrying member of the SPD, but he is expecting to be expelled any moment.

Never before, says a sceptical SPD politician, has such a motley bunch joined forces to capture votes.

Comments Holger Strom: "Our party includes women's groups, conscientious objectors' associations, environmentalists and communists."

The platform is as motley as the group. As opposed to the "Green List", the "motleys" call for a 35-hour working week and demand that Assembly members be voted out of office at any time. The platform also includes "full equality for women" and the abolishment of the Extremists Act. They want more rights for convicts, no discrimination against homosexuals and better treatment for "oppressed" secondary school students.

Holger Strom, a journalist, expects to capture between four and eight per cent of the votes.

Fifty thousand votes would cross the five per cent hurdle says the campaign paper *Jetzt wird's bunt* (It's getting motley now).

"The estimated five per cent of homosexuals among Hamburg's adult male population makes for 50,000 potential votes as yet unrepresented by the established parties," says an article.

An SPD member of the Hamburg Rathaus shrugs off this extra-parliamentary competition. "They want a great deal, but they don't tell us how they intend to achieve it."

CDU and FDP also brush aside the "motleys" as a "laughable bunch". But none of the three parties is quite at ease. They are still labouring under the Schleswig-Holstein shock, where in the state's Steinburg district (affected by the dispute over the Brokdorf nuclear power station), the Green List took 6.6 per cent at the expense of the established parties.

In the North Friesland district, involved in a controversy over a nature park, the environmentalists captured six per cent, sending two representatives to the district assembly.

In Hamburg, the SPD fears that the "motleys" could grab the one or two per cent it needs for an absolute majority.

It is still uncertain whether the *Bunte Liste* will be permitted to take part in the election at all.

The law does not make it quite clear whether an organisation which terms itself an "election society" rather than a party may participate.

The final word will be spoken by the state election committee on 5 May.

Thomas Wolgast
(Münchner Merkur, 1 April 1978)

■ SPORT

Jörg Eipel comes fighting back from the brink – and wants to box again

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

As boxer Jörg Eipel from Berlin looked out of his hotel window in Creil near Paris at the dreary foggy weather on December 17 1977, there was only one thought in his mind – his European heavyweight title fight that evening.

His trainer Werner Pappke, friend, adviser and father figure, was sitting next to him. The two men and Eipel's mother back home in Berlin were quietly confident.

But they did not realise that 17 December 1977 was going to change Jörg Eeipel's life completely. That evening, in a huge circus marquee, Jörg Eipel was knocked out in the 15the round by the French challenger Alain Marion and lost his European title. The knockout blow rendered him unconscious. A fireman gave him the kiss of life and a doctor gave him heart injections. He was taken to the intensive care unit of Beaujon hospital in Paris.

Next morning the newspaper headlines read: "Boxing star in coma," "European champion dying in hospital."

Three months later I telephoned Jörg Eipel. After the fight he had been in a coma for 25 days and could not remember what had happened. He only regained his memory long after doctors had given up hope.

Over the telephone, Eipel spoke quietly but quite normally. "I can remember everything until the second time I was knocked down. The trainer had told me that this was the 15th round and I'd have to pile on the pressure because this was the round that really mattered."

Eipel knows nothing about the following days except what his trainer Pappke, his mother and his girlfriend Petra, who stayed at his bedside in Paris, have told him.

As far as Eipel is concerned, this is all in the past. He got DM54,000 for the fight against Marion, the largest sum in his professional career, and his main concern now is to continue boxing as soon as possible.

Occasionally when he goes along to the Berlin boxing school run by his manager Willy Zeller (and where former world champion Eckhard Dagge trains) he picks up a pair of boxing gloves and says: "I'm itching to get back but I'll have to wait. First of all I have to get healthy again, then we'll see."

Hans Edelmann, director of the neurological department of the St.Urban hospital in Berlin, is convinced that no permanent damage has been done to Eipel's health. There is no trace now of the twitching in his left eye and, according to trainer Pappke, he has regained half of the 34 pounds he lost in hospital.

The only after effects that still worry Eipel are chalk deposits in his legs caused by having to lie in bed for so long and a swelling on the back of his head, caused by falling over backwards when Marion knocked him out.

Eipel has made big strides in the past weeks. His doctor describes it as a miracle. His mother says: "When I saw him when he got back to Berlin, I was scared to death. I said to Herr Pappke 'that's not my son.'

"I could not recognise him. His face was sunken and he could not talk properly. Now he can remember everything. It's as if this terrible thing had never happened."

However, not even the doctors believe that Jörg Eipel will ever box again. Yet no one has dared to tell him this yet, fearing to impede his progress towards health. They want him to realise it himself.

Trainer Pappke is prepared to show Eipel the film of his fight with Marion to help him do this.

"All I've seen up to now is a few photos. I'd like to see the film of the fight and find out exactly what happened," Eipel says.

Pappke adds: "When he sees the film, I hope he'll start thinking seriously about whether he wants to fight again. I hope he decides not to."

There was considerable criticism of Pappke after the fight. The former manager of Bubi Scholz, Fritz Greschel, thought that Pappke should have thrown in the towel earlier in the fight. Pappke counters that no trainer in the world would have behaved differently in his situation.

"Of course I would have thrown in the towel if I had had any idea what was coming. But the knockout was completely unexpected.

"In the tenth round, Jörg was ahead on points. I told him to take it easy in the next three rounds and save his energy for the last rounds.

"He was all right, had plenty of energy. Then came the first knockdown 30 seconds before the end of the fight. Ten seconds later he was ready to fight again. Then came the second punch and the bitter end."

Three months have passed since that fateful night. New European champion Alain Marion sent Eipel a telegram wishing him a complete recovery and telling him he was a brave opponent.

Jörg Eipel is getting better, but there will never be a comeback. Werner Pappke says: "I might take him on as my assistant." Perhaps he will start an apprenticeship as a furrier in his manager Zeller's shop.

Whatever happens, Jörg Eipel will have to work for a living. He did not make a fortune in his short boxing career.

Horst Müller-Manz
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 March 1978)

Jörg Eipel (Photo: dpa)

Union's boycott resolution threatens Moscow shooting

The 20 members of the UIT (International Gun Sport Union) council have passed an "anti-boycott resolution" at Wiesbaden which is likely to cause controversy at the UIT Congress in Seoul, South Korea, in September and may put paid to shooting at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

The resolution reads: "We call upon the UIT to prepare to withdraw from the 1980 Moscow Olympics if any form of discrimination, political, racial or religious, is practised at the 42 world championships."

Frankfurter Allgemeine

There is no doubt that there will be discrimination at the world championships in Korea.

Three years ago at Thun in Switzerland, a clear majority voted to hold the 1978 world shooting championships in Seoul.

The UIT soon realised what it had let itself in for. Kurt Hasler (Switzerland), UIT president at the time, had to refuse to allow the North Korean delegate to speak because of the virulence of his attacks.

The South Koreans sent invitations to all UIT members, including the North Koreans, as the Zürich newspaper *Sport* points out.

At its March meeting, the UIT council was told that the Soviet Union, the Eastern Bloc, Cuba and Yugoslavia had not replied to the invitations. The final date for entries was postponed to 31 March 1978.

At the end of March 1978, UIT general secretary Ernst Zimmermann flew to Moscow in a vain attempt to persuade the communist countries to compete.

Zimmermann was received in Moscow by Vitali Smirnow, a member of the International Olympic Committee recently relegated from a top post in the Soviet sports hierarchy. In other words, he did not even meet the officials who made the decision not to compete.

Discussions on a compromise were recently held in Athens, the home of UIT president Georges Vichos. The Swiss have their reservations about the Wiesbaden resolution. *Sport* described this as "cutting off our nose to spite our face."

It would be possible to withdraw the resolution if majority opinion against the Soviet Union, the organisers of the 1980 Olympics, were not so strong.

At the World clay pigeon championships in Antibes in 1977 the Eastern Bloc countries refused to compete because South Africa was there.

One political act follows another. So when Chong-Kyu Park, vice-president of the South Korean delegation, proposed the resolution, the other delegates did not need much persuading. The UIT approved the South Korean resolution, making only a few small alterations.

The UIT is aware that nobody can be forced to take part in a world championship. It also realises that the resolution will have to be put to the vote at the UIT congress. How the 114 delegates from 98 countries will vote is anyone's guess.

The political background with North Korea and the Peoples' Republic of China does not, it seems, allow the Soviet Union much scope for Olympic considerations, which the organisers of the 1980 Olympics ought to take into account.

It is a vicious circle. The time bomb that could blow the UIT in its present form to kingdom come is ticking away.

Karl Adolf Scherer
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 April 1978)